

News release

**PROTECTION OF MINORS AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE**  
**Review of the files of clergy and mandated lay personnel**

Longueuil, February 15 2021

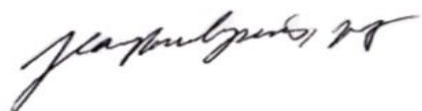
Bishop of Saint-Jean-Longueuil, the Most Rev. Claude Hamelin, announces that he joins other dioceses in the Montreal area in entrusting the Honourable André Denis to review all files of bishops, priests, deacons and mandated lay personnel, currently in active ministry or retired, and to identify any evidence of sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable people.

The Honourable André Denis began his mandate in December 2020 and is expected to complete it by summer 2021. He will present the results of his findings to the bishops of the dioceses of Montreal, Saint-Jean-Longueuil, Joliette, Valleyfield and Saint-Jérôme. The purpose of this approach is to protect minors and vulnerable persons by removing from their responsibility any person whose record would indicate signs of sexual abuse.

Subsequently, the retired judge will conduct a specific audit on sexual abuse committed by priests in these five dioceses for the period from 1940 to 2020. The statistical results of this audit will be made public.

The Honourable André Denis has had a remarkable career in the judiciary, both as a judge of the Superior Court of Quebec and as an ad hoc judge of the Court of Appeal of Quebec. He was the first judge in Canada to preside over a trial under the Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act and to convict Désiré Munyaneza—a Rwandan living in Canada—for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The diocesan bishops have pledged to co-operate fully with the Honourable André Denis and will ensure that he has complete access to all files he deems necessary.



Jean Roudy Denois, psj  
Vicaire général