



ARCHEVÊCHÉ  
ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE  
ARCHIDIOCÈSE DE SAINT-BONIFACE ARCHDIOCESE

BUREAU DE L'ARCHEVÊQUE  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

February 6, 2018

To the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface,

Dear friends,

In recent days, a distressing fact has been brought to our attention. For a number of years, the Federal Government, through its Canada Summer Jobs program, has made funds available through grants to not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers and small businesses with 50 or fewer full-time employees to create summer jobs opportunities for young people, 15 to 30 years of age, who are full-time students intending to return to their studies in the next school year. Within our Archdiocese, certain employers have availed themselves of this opportunity, e.g. the Catholic School of Evangelization.

On December 19, 2017, Employment and Social Development Canada posted information on its website announcing a major change to its requirements regarding eligibility for application for this funding. There must now be an attestation that "both the job and the organization's core mandate respect individual human rights in Canada, including reproductive rights". According to the Department, this insistence on reproductive rights specifically includes "the right to access safe and legal abortions". In other words, any Catholic institution or employer seeking this funding is required to state that they are not opposed to access to safe and legal abortion for women.

As you can see, it appears that the Federal Government is attempting to take the place of God's Law in dictating to us what we must believe in terms of morals.

Many efforts are underway across Canada to protest this step taken by the Federal Government. I invite you to voice your concern about this matter by writing a letter of protest to the Prime Minister and/or to your local member of parliament, as soon as possible. For your information, please find enclosed a statement from the Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops that was made available to us on their website. This information can also be viewed at: <http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/media-room/statements-a-letters/4865-canada-summer-jobs-ccb-concerns-and-statement>.

...2

We must be ever vigilant in our efforts to deal with challenges to faith and morals such as the required attestation. These challenges are continuous as must be our efforts to deal with them.

God bless you and your efforts.

On behalf of Most Reverend Albert LeGatt,  
Archbishop of Saint Boniface

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl J. Tarnopolski, V.G.". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative initial 'C'.

Fr. Carl J. Tarnopolski,  
Vicar General