



Archdiocese
of Toronto

Catholic Pastoral Centre
1155 Yonge Street
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MEMO

TO: Catholic Pastoral Centre & Satellite Office Department Heads, All Parishes, Catholic Charities

FROM: Neil MacCarthy, Director, Office of Public Relations & Communications

DATE: February 16, 2018

RE: Canada Summer Jobs Program Update

3 Pages Via Email

I would like to provide you with a further update on the Canada Summer Jobs Program. You will recall, in late January, we asked Catholic organizations in the Archdiocese of Toronto applying for the Canada Summer Jobs Grant to include an amended attestation. Over the course of the last several days, these groups have received notices from the government with a subject heading: “Missing information on your Canada Summer Jobs application.” Parishes and other Catholic organizations have been asked to resubmit the application, checking the attestation, within the next 10 business days.

Our position remains consistent – we are not able to affirm an attestation that is problematic for Catholic groups and those of many other faith traditions. The government is asking charitable organizations to affirm the government attestation despite our religious and conscience rights as outlined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

If you have received communication from the government asking you to resubmit your application, we are asking you to do so following the steps outlined on page 2. We recognize this is another layer of paperwork but it is an important step. Thank you for your cooperation!

Please continue to invite parishioners to write/call or visit their Member of Parliament. It is particularly important that groups impacted by the Summer Jobs Grant Program remain engaged in respectful dialogue. We have updated the www.archtoronto.org/summerjobs website to include a 2nd template letter for those who may have received a response to date from their local MP.

If you have any questions throughout the process, do not hesitate to contact the Office of Public Relations & Communications. Thanks for your continued assistance on this important matter.



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Canada Summer Jobs – February 16, 2018 Instructions for Archdiocese of Toronto Parishes/Organizations

Steps to Follow for Groups that have received “Missing Information Correspondence from government officials

1. Make 3 copies of the application you previously submitted.
2. Make 3 copies of the “Missing Information” response you received from the government.
3. Cut and paste the “To Whom It May Concern” letter on page 3 of this memo on to your own letterhead. Print 3 copies.
4. Resubmit your application and include the following: “To Whom It May Concern” Letter, Copy of “Missing Information” response from the government and a copy of the application you previously submitted. **Ensure your application is postmarked no later than 10 business days from the day you received the “Missing Information” notice from the government.** Mail to:

Canada Summer Jobs
430 Courtneypark Drive E
PO Box 120, 2nd Floor
Mississauga, Ontario L5T 2S5

5. Send a copy of the application (identical paperwork sent in step 4) to your federal Member of Parliament. If you do not know your MP, visit the following link:
<http://www.ourcommons.ca/parliamentarians/en/constituencies/FindMP>
6. Keep a copy of your “resubmission” documentation on file.
7. If you are contacted by your local Member of Parliament to set up a meeting or phone call, please contact us at the Office of Public Relations & Communications. We can assist in preparing for this conversation.

*****Applications by mail must be postmarked no later than 11:59 p.m. 10 business days following the notice you received from the government.*****



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(Please cut and paste text on to your own letterhead)

Date

To Whom It May Concern:

We have received your notification that our application has not been processed because “...the attestation cannot be altered or modified. The “I attest” box must be checked and the application signed.”

As would have been clear from our original application, we take no issue with three of the four points contained in the attestation, since they are necessary to preserve the integrity of the application process and ensure the responsible disbursement of funds through the program. However, requiring us to make the third point in the attestation in order to receive funding from this government program violates our fundamental freedoms of conscience, religion, thought, opinion, and expression as guaranteed by sections 2(a) and 2(b) of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and violates the equality rights of our members under s. 15, because it does not treat us as “equal before and under the law” and denies us “equal benefit of the law without discrimination” based on our religion.

The reason you require this particular attestation of us is not entirely clear. The nature of our organization and the summer job to be created is clearly explained in the application. This permits you to assess whether the program criteria have been met. We have no difficulty attesting that we will operate in accordance with the law and the rules of the program at all times. If there is some reason you require further assurances of us, please advise us why this is the case. If we understand why, perhaps we will be able to work together to formulate a reasonable accommodation which respects our fundamental rights and freedoms while allowing us to participate in the Canada Summer Jobs Grant Program.

Sincerely,

Representative of your Parish/Organization