



THE EN ROUTE FOUNDATION ON THE PROTECTION OF MINORS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

PREAMBLE

The En Route Foundation is a Canadian non-profit organization whose goal is to sustain the work of the Catholic movement Communion and Liberation in Canada. This Protocol (hereinafter referred to as the “**Protocol**”) is aimed at members of Communion and Liberation and employees, members, volunteers, and directors of The En Route Foundation in Canada. This Protocol supplements civil and Canon laws.

The certainty of Christ’s presence in our lives and in His Church here and now, no matter our historical and cultural situation, makes it possible for us to face with a healthy realism and humble truthfulness, even though full of pain and shame, the acts of sexual abuse that have been committed by members of the Church.

The terrible wave of evil that has drawn even Christian communities into scandal has gravely wounded the psychological and physical well being of persons and planted rotten seeds of doubt regarding the method God chooses to communicate Himself to humanity. Our very capacity to communicate the faith is also threatened.

Those situations which have inflicted “deep wounds of pain and powerlessness, primarily among the victims, but also on their family members and in the larger community of believers and nonbelievers alike” must not only be “prevented from happening, but must also” be addressed by a culture that “prevents the possibility of their being covered up and perpetuated” (Pope Francis, “Letter to the People of God,” August 20, 2018). This Protocol has been created with suitable flexibility to allow for training and preventive and precautionary measures adapted to the various environments and cultural and historical circumstances in which members of Communion and Liberation in Canada are called to live their Christian vocation. At the same time, the provisions of the Protocol must be understood as part of an effort of subsidiarity, in that they do not replace, but supplement related protocols in Canadian dioceses so that such protocols might be concordant with the experience and unique identity of Communion and Liberation.

The Protocol is presented as part of an active collaboration with the various diocesan offices and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops not only as concerns



investigations and trials with respect to individual cases, but also as concerns participation in training and prevention programs as well as programs for treatment and healing offered by local dioceses.

The following, then, is stipulated with the full awareness that “a continuous and profound conversion of hearts is needed, attested by concrete and effective actions that involve everyone in the Church,” and with the humble conviction that “this becomes possible only with the grace of the Holy Spirit (...), as we must always keep in mind the words of Jesus: ‘Apart from me you can do nothing’” (Pope Francis, [Vos estis lux mundi](#), Introduction).

NATURE AND SCOPE OF APPLICATION

ARTICLE 1 - DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise indicated herein or inconsistent with the context, capitalized words and expressions appearing in this Protocol shall be interpreted as set out below:

- a) “**Abuse**”: is understood to mean any physical, verbal, psychological, or sexual behaviour or action, or pattern of neglect
 - (i) which causes or could likely cause a Minor or a Vulnerable Adult to suffer physical, psychological, or emotional harm; and/or
 - (ii) which the alleged perpetrator knew or ought to have reasonably known would cause or would likely cause a Minor or Vulnerable Adult to suffer physical, psychological, or emotional harm;

Such behaviour may or may not be criminal in nature. Child abuse, as defined under child protection legislation at the federal and provincial levels, also constitutes Abuse under the terms of this Protocol. The person abused may not have been conscious or fully aware of the seriousness of the behaviour at the time it was committed.

- b) “**Age Group(s)**”: generally, refers to the age groups hereunder:
 1. “**Petite École**”: children aged 1 to 10
 2. “**Grande École**”: children aged 11 to 14 (flexible)
 3. “**GS**”: youth aged 14-17 (flexible)
 4. “**CLU**”: young adults aged 17 and over



- c) “**Collaborators**”: All persons formally assigned to assist Leaders in their responsibilities for La Petite École, La Grande École, GS, CLU, or adult communities.
- d) “**Inappropriate Conduct**”: any conduct that is in breach of Art. 22 of the Protocol and not in keeping with its purpose.
- e) “**Leaders**”: All persons responsible for La Petite École, La Grande École, GS, CLU, or adult communities.
- f) “**Minor**”: Any person under the age of eighteen years or other such age which is in accordance with the applicable laws. In Canada, the definition of a minor varies according to province. In the following five provinces, the definition of a minor is a person under eighteen years: Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island. In Saskatchewan a minor is an unmarried person under the age of sixteen. In Newfoundland, a minor is a person under sixteen years (youth defined as a person who is sixteen years or older, but under the age of eighteen). In the remaining three provinces and three territories a minor is defined as a person under nineteen years: British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Northwest Territories, and Yukon.
- g) “**National Leader of Communion and Liberation in Canada**”: The person named by the President of the Fraternity of Communion and Liberation to lead the Movement of Communion and Liberation in Canada.
- h) “**Vulnerable Adult**”: A person who is defined as an adult by secular statutes, but who lacks an adult mental capacity or who, by reason of advanced age, physical illness, mental disorder, or disability is or might be unable to protect himself or herself from significant harm or exploitation. Therefore, an adult who habitually lacks the use of reason is considered incapable of personal responsibility and is deemed to be equivalent to a minor according to Canon Law.



ARTICLE 2 - APPLICATION

The norms described below apply to all the faithful involved in the educational activities and apostolates of Communion and Liberation in Canada in which Minors and/or Vulnerable Adults participate or are expected to participate.

They aim at protecting the human and baptismal dignity of all those who participate in the activities mentioned above, in particular Vulnerable Adults and Minors, through prevention, access to training programs related to Abuse, a clear reporting process for any kind of Abuse, and proposals for accompaniment for anyone who may have suffered any Abuse in one of the environments described in Arts. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the Protocol.

The Protocol sets out norms that apply to each Age Group.

ARTICLE 3 - PETITE ÉCOLE

The normal educational activities aimed at Petite École, conducted under various names and in various locations, may include:

- a) A beginning day and concluding day for each year that is aligned with the beginning and end of the school year, respectively. These involve trips organized by Leaders and Collaborators, and are characterized by a proposal of age-appropriate Christian friendship that typically involves outdoor games, visits to sites significant for their history or beauty, and the celebration of Mass.
- b) Regular meetings of varying frequency (from weekly to monthly) guided by Leaders and Collaborators, intended as moments of recreation dedicated to games and conversation for the purpose of cultivating familiarity with Jesus Christ.
- c) Annual symposia/vacations: a short period of vacation in a place, preferably near hiking trails, with lodgings featuring suitable rooms and facilities that provide the highest possible amount of discretion for each person's privacy. These are special moments to share free time together with games, singing, hikes, cultural presentations and talks, witnesses by those who live notable examples of Christian life, and common prayer, all under the responsible guidance of Leaders and Collaborators.



d) Other educational or recreational activities under the responsible guidance of Leaders and Collaborators.

Parents participate with their children in Petite École activities.

ARTICLE 4 - GRANDE ÉCOLE

The normal educational activities aimed at Grande École, conducted under various names and in various locations, may include:

a) A beginning day and concluding day for each year that is aligned with the beginning and end of the school year, respectively. These involve trips organized by Leaders and Collaborators, and are characterized by a proposal of age-appropriate Christian friendship that typically involves outdoor games, visits to sites significant for their history or beauty, and the celebration of Mass.

b) Regular meetings of varying frequency (from weekly to monthly) guided by Leaders and Collaborators, intended as moments of recreation dedicated to games and conversation for the purpose of cultivating familiarity with Jesus Christ.

c) The Promise, an annual trip, usually to a significant Christian landmark that can easily be reached by the participating groups from different locations, during which students promise or renew their promise to be faithful to their friendship with Jesus under the guidance and protection of a saint selected by each individual participant.

d) Annual symposia/vacations: a short period of vacation in a place, preferably near hiking trails, with lodgings featuring suitable rooms and facilities that provide the highest possible amount of discretion for each person's privacy. These are special moments to share free time together with games, singing, hikes, cultural presentations and talks, witnesses by those who live notable examples of Christian life, and common prayer, all under the responsible guidance of Leaders and Collaborators.

e) Charitable work: a gesture to educate youth in the importance of charity, placed under the responsible guidance of Leaders and Collaborators. This gesture requires the faithful commitment to share one's free time with those in situations of need or poverty, without compromising one's personal or educational obligations.



f) Other educational or recreational activities under the responsible guidance of Leaders and Collaborators.

ARTICLE 5 - GS

The normal educational activities in GS, conducted under various names and in various locations, may include:

a) A beginning day(s) and concluding day(s) for each year, which are aligned with the beginning and end of the school year, respectively, and are characterized by shared time for recreation and conversations in assemblies, and conclude with the celebration of Mass.

b) Meetings of varying frequency (from weekly to monthly) called the School of Community, guided by Leaders and Collaborators. These gatherings begin with communal singing and end with common prayer. They are dedicated to the discovery of the relevance of the Christian encounter to the needs of daily life in the environments of school and home and with friends, the realities where the human and Christian growth of young people is played out.

c) The Way of the Cross, personal and communal time for silence, and an assembly for the purpose of sharing experiences gained from participating in the gesture.

d) Annual symposia/vacations: a short period of vacation in a place, preferably near hiking trails, with lodgings featuring suitable rooms and facilities that provide the highest possible amount of respect for each person's privacy. These moments favour sharing time playing games, singing, hiking, attending cultural presentations, talks, and witnesses by those who live notable examples of Christian life, and common prayer, all under the responsible guidance of Leaders and Collaborators.

e) Charitable work: a gesture to educate youth in the importance of charity, under the responsible guidance of Leaders and Collaborators. This gesture requires the faithful commitment to share one's free time with those in situations of need or poverty, without compromising one's personal or educational obligations.

f) Other educational or recreational activities under the responsible guidance of Leaders and Collaborators.



ARTICLE 6 - CLU

The normal educational activities in CLU, conducted under various names and in various locations, may include:

- a) **School of Community:** a catechesis based on texts by Fr. Luigi Giussani that is the Communion and Liberation's primary educational tool to develop awareness and affection within the experience of having encountered the charism. It consists of a weekly/biweekly meeting freely convened by a group of people, usually in a public setting or workplace.
- b) **Beginning Day:** a gathering that includes an introductory reflection on the path to be followed during the year, concluding with a celebration of the Mass.
- c) **Spiritual Exercises:** a three-day retreat dedicated to communal prayer, including the Liturgy of the Hours, listening to meditations proposed by the President of the Fraternity or his delegate, daily Mass, individual and communal times for silence, and a time of assembly to share questions and experiences.
- d) **Annual symposia/vacations:** short period of vacation as a community, preferably near hiking trails, dedicated to reviewing the year's path of education with hikes, games, conversations, cultural presentations and talks, witnesses in a fraternal environment, supported by the pillars of common prayer and daily Mass.
- e) **Charitable work:** a gesture to educate young people in the importance of charity. This gesture requires the faithful commitment to share one's free time with those in situations of need or poverty, without compromising one's personal or educational obligations.
- f) **Other educational or recreational activities** under the responsible guidance of the Leaders or their Collaborators.

ARTICLE 7 - ADULT ACTIVITIES

The normal adult activities in CL communities, conducted under various names and in various locations, may include:

- a) **School of Community:** a catechesis based on texts by Fr. Luigi Giussani that is the Communion and Liberation's primary educational tool to develop awareness and affection within the experience of having encountered the charism. It consists of a weekly/biweekly meeting freely convened by a group of people, usually in a public setting or workplace.



- b) **Beginning Day:** a gathering that includes an introductory reflection on the path to be followed during the year, concluding with a celebration of the Mass.
- c) **Spiritual Exercises:** a three-day retreat dedicated to communal prayer, including the Liturgy of the Hours, listening to meditations proposed by the President of the Fraternity or his delegate, daily Mass, individual and communal times for silence, and a time of assembly to share questions and experiences.
- d) **Annual symposia/vacations:** short period of vacation as a community, preferably near hiking trails, dedicated to reviewing the year's path of education with hikes, games, conversations, cultural presentations and talks, witnesses in a fraternal environment, supported by the pillars of common prayer and daily Mass.
- e) **Charitable work:** a gesture to educate adults in the importance of charity. This gesture requires the faithful commitment to share one's free time with those in situations of need or poverty, without compromising one's personal or professional obligations.
- f) **Other educational or recreational activities** under the responsible guidance of the Leaders or their Collaborators.

ARTICLE 8 - AUTHORIZATION OF LEADERS AND COLLABORATORS

All Leaders must be authorized by the National Leader of Communion and Liberation in Canada or his/her delegate who shall communicate their names to the Executive Director of The En Route Foundation, in order to ensure that a background check is carried out for final approval pursuant to article 14 of the Protocol.

All Collaborators in activities listed in Arts. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 must be approved by Leaders, whose names are then communicated to the Executive Director of The En Route Foundation in order to ensure that a background check is carried out for final approval pursuant to article 14 of the Protocol.

ARTICLE 9 - CONSENT FOR MINORS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Any Minor wishing to participate in the gestures and events of Communion and Liberation and/or The En Route Foundation will be required to submit the written consent from parents or legal guardians at the earliest convenience.



Subject to the protections of religious freedom, no Minor, however great his or her personal desire to participate, will be admitted to the gestures and events referred to in Art. 3 c), 4 c) and 4 d), Art. 5 d), and Art. 7 c) and 7e) without the prior written and submitted consent of his or her parents or legal guardians (see Schedule A).

All Vulnerable Adults who are subject to legal guardianship or protective supervision must have signed consent from their legal guardian or relevant authorized individual.

Where a Vulnerable Adult is not subject to legal guardianship or protective supervision but is in the care of a family member or an institution and consent is normally required for activities outside of the home, it is encouraged that written consent be obtained from the Vulnerable Adult's caregiver.

Vulnerable Adults who participate in the gestures referred to in Arts. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 above shall receive the utmost respect and attention.

This article does not apply to Cégep and university students.

ARTICLE 10 - ROLE OF THE EN ROUTE FOUNDATION

The En Route Foundation shall ensure coordination, registration and completion of consent forms for the activities described in Arts. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. All communities shall keep the Executive Director of The En Route Foundation informed of upcoming planned events.

The En Route Foundation receives all reports of Abuse and Inappropriate Conduct in accordance with Arts. 17 and 22 of the Protocol.

ARTICLE 11 - MINORS WHO ATTEND ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS

Minors who might occasionally attend educational, religious, and/or recreational activities intended for adults shall receive the utmost respect and attention.

Though parents or guardians remain responsible for the physical and moral integrity of the Minors that they involve in such activities, proper and irreproachable behaviour is required of all participating adults, in accordance with Art. 16 of the Protocol.



ARTICLE 12 - PRIVACY

The En Route Foundation shall respect applicable federal and provincial privacy laws regarding the storage, use, and distribution of photographic, audio, or video materials that record the aforementioned activities.



PREVENTION

ARTICLE 13 - CONDUCT EXPECTED FROM MEMBERS WORKING WITH MINORS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

The protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults is a fundamental aspect of Communion and Liberation's mission of education and formation and does not concern only those involved in the aforementioned activities.

All adults who participate in the life of Communion and Liberation and interact with Minors and Vulnerable Adults in that context are expected to maintain personal relationships beyond reproach with them not only during the activities described in Arts. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, but also outside of those activities.

Leaders and their Collaborators in the activities dedicated to Minors referred to in Arts. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 above must demonstrate a sincere commitment to education, offer a clear witness of psychological balance and emotional maturity, and embody a sincere dedication and fidelity to the path of Communion and Liberation.

ARTICLE 14 - BACKGROUND CHECK

All employees and volunteers of the En Route Foundation, and Leaders and Collaborators in Communion and Liberation in Canada whose work involves oversight of Minors and Vulnerable Adults, shall be required to have a formal background check attesting to the absence of any criminal convictions and/or unresolved charges related to Minors or Vulnerable Adults prior to starting any activity described in Arts. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

The background checks must be updated every three (3) years.

The En Route Foundation shall endeavour to facilitate the process of obtaining background checks by liaising with the local police.

Priests or religious who are involved in such works must also inform the local ordinary and/or their superior.



ARTICLE 15 - TRAINING COURSES

All Leaders and their Collaborators involved in the activities referred to in Arts. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, including activities with Minors and Vulnerable Adults referred to in Art. 11, may be required to participate in training courses mandated by The En Route Foundation for recognition, reporting, and prevention of Abuse.

ARTICLE 16 - EDUCATIONAL RELATIONSHIP AND APPROPRIATE CONDUCT

All participants described in Arts. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 must cultivate a deep respect for the freedom of conscience of the Minors and Vulnerable Adults entrusted to their care and a highly sensitive concern for the protection of their personal privacy. Their relations with Minors and Vulnerable Adults shall always be guided by appropriate conduct, which shall include:

- vigilance in the use of language, which always ought to be respectful, seeking out and emphasizing all that is beautiful, noble, and pure, no matter the means of communication chosen, particularly in respect of social media;
- the utmost discretion in physical gestures. In these gestures, adults should never exceed the limits of a cordial friendship and appropriate behaviour that is always openly shared with other adults and other young people present;
- the avoidance of self-referential attitudes and overly personal bonds that might generate misunderstandings and inhibit a healthy relational dynamic both at the educational level and in friendships among peers.

REPORTING

ARTICLE 17 - INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE

An Independent Committee of three (3) people (the “**Committee**”) will be chosen by the Board of The En Route Foundation to:

- receive and follow up on all reports of Abuse;
- assess the reliability of the reports;
- assist any person whose complaints are not manifestly unfounded to file those complaints with the appropriate authorities, and
- if necessary, advise the President of The En Route Foundation and the National Leader of Communion and Liberation in Canada to take appropriate action with civil and ecclesiastical authorities.



Reports of Abuse, written or verbal, received by The En Route Foundation or by any leader of Communion and Liberation in Canada shall be forwarded to the Committee.

The Committee shall operate at 'arm's length' from The En Route Foundation and maintain the strictest level of confidentiality in its deliberations.

Members of the Committee will be chosen by the Board of The En Route Foundation for a term of three (3) years renewable.

ARTICLE 18 - REPORTING RESPONSE

In response to a report that is not manifestly unfounded, the Committee shall invite the person(s) who made the report to present it to the competent ecclesiastical and/or civil authorities.

At the same time, the Committee shall inform the President of The En Route Foundation and the National Leader of the Communion and Liberation in Canada of the report so that they may take the precautionary measures referred to in Art. 20 of the Protocol.

ARTICLE 19 - REPORTING RESPONSIBILITY

If the person(s) who made a report does not go to the competent authority, the Committee will delegate one of its members to refer the case to the competent authority as soon as possible, offering all the information in its possession, with a view toward achieving the necessary verification of credibility.



ARTICLE 20 - SUSPENSION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Leader of an activity who is informed of a report of Abuse, shall in every case, in collaboration with the President of The En Route Foundation and the National Leader of Communion and Liberation in Canada, suspend the named individual from any responsibilities as a precautionary measure. If the named individual is a Leader, the President of The En Route Foundation and the National Leader of Communion and Liberation in Canada shall suspend the Leader from any further responsibilities.

In the case of Inappropriate Conduct, the President of the En Route Foundation and the National Leader of Communion and Liberation in Canada may suspend the named individual from any responsibilities as a precautionary measure.

ARTICLE 21 - REFERRAL TO VICTIMS' SERVICES AND OTHER AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE

The Committee may recommend that the alleged victim of the Abuse be referred for medical, psychological, and spiritual assistance. Economic assistance may also be offered to the alleged victim in the spirit of Christian justice and charity if, in the judgment of both the Committee and The En Route Foundation Board, such assistance is warranted under the circumstances. This will be done in confidentiality, with absolute respect for the persons involved, and their parents and guardians.

ARTICLE 22 - INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT

In the event of Inappropriate Conduct in the educational environments referred to in Arts. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the Protocol, those who become aware of it are responsible for alerting the Leaders of the relevant activities.

In response, the Leaders of the educational environment concerned, having established that the reports of such events are not manifestly unfounded, shall call on those involved to immediately correct the behaviour in question.

Inappropriate Conduct may result in a precautionary suspension from all responsibilities and, where appropriate, definitive removal from any role.



ARTICLE 23 - REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS

With respect to violations referred to in Art. 1 of [Vos estis](#) that involve members of Communion and Liberation in Canada outside the context of the activities described in Arts. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 above, those who become aware of them must promptly submit a report to the competent local Ordinary and/or civil authorities according to Canon Law and/or civil law as required. With respect to such violations that involve members of the Fraternity of Communion and Liberation in Canada, a report will also be submitted to the President of the Fraternity.

FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 24 - LANGUAGE OF PUBLICATION

This Protocol shall be published on the Communion and Liberation Canadian website in both official languages.

ARTICLE 25 - EFFECTIVE DATE

This Protocol shall apply for three years after the day it becomes effective on January 1, 2022.



SCHEDULE A

PARENTAL CONSENT AND RELEASE FORM



Parental Consent and
Release Form_ Grand