



Archdiocese of Vancouver
ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

July 9, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my continued support of CoSA in the Vancouver/ Fraser Valley area. Since its inception in 2005, the Archdiocese's support has taken different forms. Throughout this period, CoSA has been an important part of the outreach work of this Archdiocese.

Presently, the Archdiocese donates to CoSA the time of our coordinator of prison ministry, Bob Buckham, as well as the volunteer coordinator, Angela Veters. Together, Bob and Angela support CoSA by assisting with circles, helping volunteers with applications and recruiting new volunteers. Many of our 77 parishes are also involved by facilitating the recruitment and training of volunteers as well as by making parish halls available for CoSA meetings.

The Archdiocese also pays for insurance coverage for the CoSA volunteers. Through our Safe Environment program, we educate volunteers on boundaries and the proper code of conduct for this work. If there were to be an incident, we would help to resolve the issue through our insurance carrier.

Maureen Donegan and her team work tirelessly to grow CoSA in a sustainable way. The Archdiocese of Vancouver also offers Maureen support in her fundraising initiatives as she creates a Society with many supporters backing her work.

Because this work is extremely valuable, the Archdiocese has supported the CoSA program for nearly two decades. It adheres to our belief that no one is disposable and that each person, regardless of their past, deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. The Catholic Church firmly believes that caring for the "lost sheep" is integral to her mission.

Statistically, the program has been very successful, with 83% less sexual reoffending than those released without a CoSA circle. Each year we have a CoSA banquet to honour the work of the core members. Theirs is not an easy journey, but with support and accountability, we believe CoSA has a powerful impact on their reintegration to society. It serves the common good, and for their commitment I am extremely grateful.

With cordial greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

+ *J. Michael Miller CSB*

✦ J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver