

## **CLASSIS EASTERN CANADA SAFE CHURCH TEAM COUNSELLING FUND**

### **Purpose of the Fund:**

To provide Christian counselling for members of churches within Classis Eastern Canada who need help to deal with abuse and its impacts on their lives, and who have inadequate finances to obtain such counselling.

### **Basic Principles:**

No abuse survivor should go without necessary counselling because of inadequate finances. Confidentiality will be respected.

Counselling fund is available for needs within all churches and will be replenished as required by appeals to the congregations.

### **Guidelines for Use of the Counselling Fund:**

The following factors will be considered prior to approval of requests for assistance from the Counselling Fund:

1. Membership in one of the churches within Classis Eastern Canada or regular participation in a church-sponsored program, such as Coffee Break.
2. Participants in counselling programs will be encouraged to make some contribution towards the costs, if possible, as an expression of their personal commitment to the program.
3. Other possible sources of financing will be considered and used whenever possible, such as employment-related benefit plans.
4. In keeping with the principle of confidentiality, endorsement of a request for assistance by a deacon, elder, or SCT committee member will be accepted without disclosure of detailed information from the participant. Financial accounts are managed between the SCT treasurer and the counselling agency, using case numbers to protect identity.
5. For confidentiality, assessment of financial need may be included in the pre-session interview by the counsellor, who will then make a recommendation to the SCT executive.
6. A member of a family will be considered eligible for assistance, even though the family could afford to pay, if another member of the family does not think counselling is necessary and refuses to pay for it.

### **Policy for Service Providers that the Counselling Fund will support:**

The counselling fund of Classis Eastern Canada Safe Church Team will provide funding through its established channels, with the requirement that a service provider:

1. Has a master's level of education in this field
2. Is a member of a reputable professional counselling association
3. Carries liability insurance of a minimum of \$2 million per occurrence
4. Has a minimum of five years counselling experience

It is preferable but not required that the practitioner integrates Christian faith into the counselling work.

When the service provider makes arrangements with the fund's financial administrator for payment, at that time the credentials outlined above must be provided to the financial administrator.

If five years have elapsed since a service provider has accessed our fund, an updated set of credentials must be provided to the financial administrator.