

**COMMUNIQUÉ No. 100 – MARCH 19, 2024
NEWS ABOUT LAW 25**

**To Members of Parish Teams,
To our Clergy, PCLs, and LPAs,
To the faithful active in their communities,
To Members of Religious Communities,
To Archdiocesan Staff,**

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Access to Information Commission, a governmental body, has just ruled on an important matter: churches and dioceses are not subject to Law 25. However, this is certainly not a reason to handle personal data inappropriately. Such data remains sensitive and must be adequately protected.

It's crucial to underscore our commitment to handling personal data responsibly, regardless of legal obligations. This includes ensuring proper protection and confidentiality measures are in place to safeguard sensitive information. Our focus should be on upholding ethical standards and demonstrating our dedication to respecting individuals' privacy rights. By highlighting our proactive approach to data management, we can reinforce trust and credibility with stakeholders while promoting a culture of accountability within our organization.

We therefore recommend implementing the following two measures in accordance with this law:

1. Transparency in Information Gathering

- Parishes must inform parishioners about the information collected and its use, at the time of collection.
- This applies to sacrament registers, donor data and website cookies.
- Website pop-ups and consent forms are sufficient to provide information.

2. Unsubscribe option for Users

- Parishes must allow users to unsubscribe from mailing lists, such as newsletters.
- An unsubscribe link should be included in newsletters.

Yours faithfully,

Charles Langlois PSS

Charles Langlois, PSS
Vicar General and Moderator of the curia
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal