



L'ARCHE GREATER VANCOUVER

February 22, 2020

L'Arche International has made public the results of an independent inquiry, which reveals that Jean Vanier was involved in sexual misconduct with adult women without disabilities.

We feel a sense of responsibility to share with you how this news has impacted our community and what lies ahead.

This information is deeply disturbing and disappointing for all of us.

As difficult as it is to hear this information, we honour L'Arche International for their decision to initiate an independent inquiry in order to discern the truth of this matter. Our hearts go out to the women who had the courage to come forward. We hope this formal acknowledgement will assist them in their healing.

We also wish to affirm our commitment to serving people with and without disabilities. L'Arche Greater Vancouver has been an intentional community for over 45 years. This will continue. Jean's original inspiration, that people with developmental disabilities have a unique gift to offer our world, and that we are transformed and become more human through our relationships with each other remains true. Our commitment to those we serve will not change.

L'Arche Greater Vancouver continues to meet the highest standard of care for those we support. As a CARF accredited organization, we abide by a set of rigorous standards related to training of personnel, care of people, and business practices. Provincially we are under the direction of the Community Care Facilities Act and our homes undergo annual licensing inspections. We also abide by standards set by L'Arche Canada and are regularly evaluated to ensure we are true to the core values of the organization. We continually review our policies and practices and look for ways to improve them.

It is our intention to use this experience as an opportunity to honour our commitments, deepen our compassion, and affirm our resolve to facilitate safe and caring relationships with everyone.

If you would like more information about the findings of the inquiry, please visit the L'Arche International website: <https://www.larche.org/en/welcome>.

We ask for your prayers as we walk this difficult journey.

Denise Haskett
Executive Director/Community Leader

Ted Kuntz
Board President