

Awards, Honours and Invitations to Speakers or Organizations

Policy No. 904

The following policy supports the Archbishop, as the primary teacher of the faith, in his duty of oversight regarding the orthodoxy and integrity of the teaching of Christian doctrine within the Archdiocese.

Great care must be exercised when giving awards and honours, or extending invitations to individuals or organizations to speak or provide information at any event affiliated with any archdiocesan entity. (Examples may include, but are not restricted to, benefit luncheons or dinners, student gatherings, graduations, parish programs, etc.) It is critical that everything taught or promoted in facilities or events associated with archdiocesan entities is consistent with the Catholic faith.

Organizations that do “good work” in some areas may be misguided in others, particularly in the areas dealing with the sanctity of human life. Even if these individuals or organizations do not address specific areas of dissent at the proposed event, their appearance may be a source of scandal and confusion within the faith community.

Policies and procedures Nos. 904, 905, 906 are intended to provide guidance and to lessen the possible embarrassment and financial outlay encountered by a sponsoring group if it should be necessary to rescind an invitation previously extended.

Policy Statement: Any Catholic entity subject to the Archbishop of Edmonton, and any boards or fundraising committees affiliated with them shall not give awards or honours, or host presentations, speaking opportunities or appearances by individuals or organizations whose public position is in opposition to the fundamental moral principles of the Catholic Church.

Procedure: Due diligence into researching the appropriateness of a speaker or honoree is the responsibility of the sponsoring parish or organization. When in doubt regarding a speaker or honoree, it is the obligation of the sponsoring parish or organization to seek clarification from the Office of the Chancellor.

Exception: An exception to this policy may be made in a secondary school, college or university if a dissenting individual is participating in a debate with an individual who effectively presents the Church’s position.

Refer to Policies:
No. 905 Invitations to Speakers
No. 906 Advertisements of Speakers