



I am the Vine, You are the Branches: Kelowna hosts 2018 Convention and AGM

The CCSTA AGM/Convention set for Kelowna on June 7-9 is just six months away, and the committee has been busy planning amidst school start up and hiring while there is a teacher shortage in BC. The conference will be upon us before you know it.

Subcommittees exist in each diocese to support the work being done by that diocese in preparation for the conference. The organizing committee met the first week of November when we gathered in Vancouver for a variety of provincial meetings.

We look forward to welcoming you to the beautiful Okanagan Valley in BC. The conference kicks off with a pre-convention tour which includes amazing views, a little Catholic history and of course wine. Companion tours include a walking tour of downtown Kelowna, a boat cruise, golf and/or a trip to the local farmer's market. One can also venture out on their own to any one of the 150 wineries in the valley.

We have planned for an array of speakers:

- Bishop Gary Gordon – An AWESome Responsibility
- Dr. Stephen Shore - Life on and Slightly to the Right of the Autism Spectrum: An Inside View Towards Success
- Dr. Jennifer Tong - An Inclusive Community of Learners (through the eyes of a child with special needs)
- Danny Brock - Catholicity Ain't What It Used to Be: Lessons for the New Evangelization from the Life of a High School Religion Teacher
- Blaine Melynck and Sheri Onushko – International Students in Your School - Why Bother?
- MLA Norm Letnick – Advocating for Change from a Provincial Government
- Dr. Peter Froese – Strategies in Negotiating Successfully with Government



CISBC Organizing Committee includes (from left): Art Therrien, Superintendent, Nelson Diocese; Bev Pulyk (Chairperson), Superintendent, Victoria Diocese; Kelly Tries, Superintendent, Kamloops Diocese; Chris Dugdale, Superintendent, Prince George; Sandra Marshall, Associate Superintendent, Vancouver Archdiocese.

- Archbishop Michael Miller - Evangelization: What Does That Mean in our Catholic Schools?

Then there are the social gatherings – tree planting ceremony on Thursday afternoon, conference reception on Thursday evening after the opening keynote, dinner and dance at the Okanagan Golf Club, mass on Saturday evening followed by dinner at the Delta Grand Okanagan.

A variety of students from various schools are looking forward to sharing their talents with you all.

The website and registration will be live in January.

Like most CCSTA conferences at this time of year,

the Conference Hotel is fully booked at the moment. To those who may have overbooked for their district, please cancel your extra rooms to open the door for others to book those rooms. We are also determining whether to add to the block booking in the New Year but we don't want to add rooms and then have others cancel rooms, leaving us to pay for opening up the extra rooms. In the meantime, we suggest that you book at the two other hotels noted on the CCSTA website.

Blessings to you all. May you have a wonderful Advent and joy-filled Christmas. Be sure to slow down and enjoy those special moments that come by but once year.

Je suis la vigne, Vous êtes les branches Kelowna accueille le congrès et l'AGA 2017

Il reste six mois avant le début du congrès de l'ACCEC de Kelowna du 7 au 9 juin prochain. Le comité s'est affairé à travers la rentrée et l'embauche, malgré la pénurie d'enseignants qui sévit en Colombie-Britannique. Le congrès sera à nos portes en un rien de temps.

Chaque diocèse possède un sous-comité qui appuie les préparatifs en marche dans ce diocèse. Le comité organisateur s'est réuni à Vancouver pendant la pre-

mière semaine de novembre et effectué quelques rencontres provinciales.

Nous avons hâte de vous accueillir dans la magnifique vallée de l'Okanagan. Les activités débiteront par une visite pré-congrès à certains de nos plus beaux sites, un peu d'histoire catholique, et bien sûr une dégustation de vin. On pourra visiter Kelowna à pied, voir le marché local, faire une croisière, jouer au golf ou explorer individuellement

l'un des 150 vignobles de la région.

Nous avons invité une variété de conférenciers :

- Mgr Gary Gordon – An AWESome Responsibility
- Dr Stephen Shore - Life on and Slightly to the Right of the Autism Spectrum: An Inside View Towards Success

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President's Message

New Year, New Perspective

Here's the thing about a New Year and the determined resolutions, goals and plans we usually make that go along with it: they aren't always in our control.

But that's okay.

To help make your upcoming year epic, we have to remember that while planning and goal setting are important, we have to look beyond a measure of success – especially if we can't control the outcome.

While it's not always easy to digest decisions or actions made by others, there are ways in which we can respond. And that's by looking at the teachings of Jesus and reflecting on how he'd respond. He'd respond with gratitude. With hope. With patience. With positivity. With love.

As we go into 2018, I encourage you to drop the resolutions and goal setting – and instead look to Jesus as a guiding light for how we respond to the way the year unfolds.

We certainly worked hard to adopt that approach for 2017.

A lot can happen in just a few months. That's been the case for us here at CCSTA and for Catholic education in Canada. Yet when faced with any challenge, we have responded using Christ's message.

And you know what? We're getting good response. Good feedback. Good Support.

This past year, we've connected with politicians, educators and families from across the country to ensure the message of Catholic education and its value are heard and understood.

Since the Saskatchewan ruling occurred earlier this year regarding Theodore's Case, we met with MPs to talk about the case and what Catholic education means to the families and students who attend.

Overall, the responses were extremely positive and supportive of our Association. We received great support for our Catholic education system, including the parent's right to choose and religious rights. That was very evident. Several members indicated a personal or family connection to the Catholic education system.

Then, this past fall, we hosted our Lobby Day on Parliament Hill. We met with several MPs to discuss CCSTA and Catholic education. Again, we received a positive response.

It's so important to remain proactive, positive and energized, and engage with others to build a network of supporters for Catholic education.

As we look forward to 2018, we do it by welcoming new board members to the CCSTA – Paula Scott and Paul Bourassa. We're excited to share new ideas and initiatives, particularly as we continue to work on political engagement as well as build our Toonies for Tuition program.

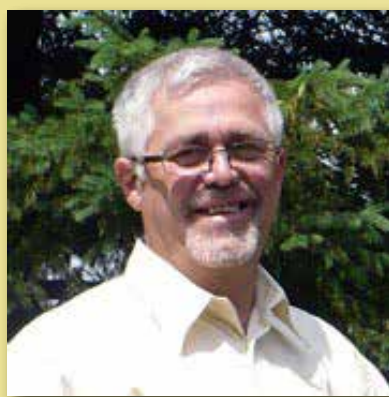
With that, I wish you and your family all the very best for the Christmas season and wish you nothing but positivity for 2018. Merry Christmas to you and your family.

God Bless.

Respectfully,



Marino Gazzola, CCSTA President



Marino Gazzola
President / Président
CCSTA / ACCEC

Rapport du président

Nouvelle année, nouvelle perspective

Le hic avec les résolutions, les objectifs et les projets du Nouvel An, c'est que nous ne pouvons pas tout contrôler.

Mais ça va.

Quand on prend ces résolutions qui devraient rendre la nouvelle année mémorable, il faut se dire que même si la planification et l'établissement des objectifs sont importants, il faut rester réaliste, surtout si les résultats sont parfois hors de notre contrôle.

Parfois, les décisions des autres sont difficiles à accepter, mais il existe des façons de s'en accommoder. Les enseignements de Jésus et une réflexion sur ce qu'Il ferait en ces circonstances sont des façons d'y faire face. On y trouve de la gratitude. On y trouve de l'espoir, de la patience, de l'amour.

En abordant 2018, je vous invite à laisser tomber les résolutions et les objectifs, pour faire place à Jésus comme guide dans vos prises de décision.

Nous avons essayé de suivre cette approche en 2017.

Beaucoup peut arriver en peu de temps. C'est ce qui s'est produit à l'ACCEC et en éducation catholique au Canada.

Nous avons répondu à ces défis à partir du message du Christ.

Et devinez quoi ! Ça fonctionne : bonnes réactions, bonne rétroaction, appui soutenu.

Cette année, nous avons joint des politiciens, des enseignants et des parents de partout au pays pour s'assurer que l'éducation catholique et le message qu'elle véhicule soient entendus et compris.

Depuis le verdict dans l'affaire Theodore, nous avons rencontré des députés pour discuter de ce cas et de l'importance de l'éducation catholique pour les familles et les élèves qui en bénéficient.

En général, les réactions ont été très positives et favorables à notre association, à l'éducation catholique, à notre système, au droit au choix pour les parents et aux droits religieux. C'était transparent. Plusieurs députés ont relaté leurs liens personnels ou familiaux au système d'éducation catholique.

Plus tard cet automne, nous avons eu notre journée de lobbying sur la Colline du Parlement. Nous avons rencontré plusieurs députés pour discuter de l'ACCEC et d'éducation catholique.

Encore cette fois, l'accueil a été positif.

Nous devons continuer d'être proactifs, positifs et énergiques. Nous devons aller vers les autres pour bâtir un réseau d'appui à l'éducation catholique.

En 2018, nous souhaitons la bienvenue à trois nouveaux membres au conseil d'administration de l'ACCEC : Paula Scott et Paul Bourassa. Nous sommes excités à la perspective de partager de nouvelles idées et d'aborder de nouvelles initiatives tout en poursuivant notre travail d'implication au niveau politique et nos efforts d'augmenter notre programme Toonies for Tuition.

Je vous souhaite donc, à vous et votre famille, ce qu'il y a de mieux en cette saison de Noël, et une année 2018 empreinte de positivité. Joyeux Noël !

Que Dieu vous accompagne.

Respectueusement,



Marino Gazzola, président, ACCEC



Vision

"Enlivened by the Word of God and our tradition, we promote and protect the right to Catholic education in Canada. We speak as one."

Mission

The CCSTA works in communion with the Catholic Church through:

- Collaborating with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops;
- Dialogue with Catholic education organizations throughout the world;
- Working in solidarity with Catholic School Trustees' Associations and other partners in Catholic education throughout Canada;
- Providing opportunities for faith formation and professional development of trustees;
- Providing leadership and service by promoting and protecting the right to a Catholic education among the relevant government agencies within Canada;
- Promoting excellence in Catholic education throughout Canada.

2017-2018

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From the Office Desk..

It's hard to believe that Christmas is but a few weeks away. I'm sure we are all looking forward to time with our families and friends.

It's been a busy but productive fall. On October 30th, we held our Board of Directors meeting. For details, please see our Board Meeting Highlights. On the 31st we had our annual lobby day and reception on Parliament Hill, which actually began on the 30th with a thirty minute meeting with Andrew Scheer, Leader of the Opposition. It was a sit down meeting in his office, and included Marino Gazzola, Adriana LaGrange, Paula Scott and myself. He was very supportive of Catholic Education and in closing said if we ever needed his help, not to hesitate to call.



The lobby day started with the Board of Directors meeting in groups of two or three with 12 MPs, followed by a reception with an additional 20 MPs and Senators in attendance. As a follow up, we will continue to engage MPs as part of our local engagement strategy.


We continue to monitor both the Trinity Western and Theodore Cases. The Trinity Western Case is being heard by the Supreme Court of Canada at the end of this month. We have intervenor status, along with ACSTA, OCSTA, SCSBA and AFOCSC. ACSTA and OCSTA will be taking the lead in the case. We will continue to share details on both cases.

Both ACSTA and SCSBA recently held their AGMs. Marino Gazzola attended the SCSBA AGM in Regina, and I attended the ACSTA AGM in Edmonton. Both AGMs were excellent, with lots of dialogue about the challenges to Catholic Education, but also lots of celebration in recognition of the great things taking place in both provinces. At the ACSTA AGM, Paul Bourassa was elected Vice President and we are pleased to also welcome him to the CCSTA Board.

Once again, we received lots of positive feedback from our AGM in Niagara Falls, and planning is well under way for our 2018 AGM in Kelowna. Registration will open in late January and we will let everyone know when this happens. While in Edmonton for the ACSTA AGM, I took the opportunity to drive to Canmore to see the facilities and meet with the staff hosting our 2019 AGM. Both the 2018 and 2019 AGMs are offering great venues, and we look forward to seeing you all there!

We are still looking for a host for our 2020 AGM. If anyone is interested, or requires additional information, please contact the CCSTA office.

In closing, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and all the best in 2018!


Julian Hanlon,
CCSTA Executive Director

Nouvelles du bureau central

C'est difficile de croire que Noël arrive déjà. Je suis certain que vous avez hâte de profiter de ce temps avec votre famille et vos amis.

Ce fut un automne chargé mais productif. Le 30 octobre a eu lieu notre rencontre du conseil d'administration. Pour les détails, veuillez consulter nos Faits saillants du conseil. Le 31 octobre a marqué la tenue de notre journée annuelle de lobbying sur la Colline du Parlement et la réception qui s'en est suivi. De fait, le tout avait commencé le 30 avec une rencontre de 30 minutes avec le chef de l'Opposition, Andrew Scheer. Il s'agissait d'une rencontre officielle à son bureau, à laquelle ont participé Marino Gazzola, Adriana LaGrange, Paula Scott et moi-même. M. Scheer a confirmé son appui à l'éducation catholique et a même proposé son aide en cas de besoin.

La journée de lobbying a débuté par une rencontre des membres du conseil d'administration par groupes de 2 ou 3 avec 12 députés, suivie d'une réception à laquelle 20 autres députés et sénateurs ont participé. En guise de suivi, nous continuons à joindre les députés à travers notre stratégie d'implication au niveau local.

Nous continuons de suivre les affaires Theodore et Trinity Western. Cette dernière sera entendue en Cour suprême à la fin de ce mois. Nous y tenons le statut d'intervenants, aux côtés de l'ACSTA, l'OCSTA, la SCSBA et l'AFOCSC. L'ACSTA et l'OCSTA seront les leaders dans cette affaire. Nous continuerons de vous tenir au courant des développements.

Les AGA de l'ACSTA et de la SCSBA ont récemment eu lieu. Marino Gazzola a assisté à l'AGA de la SCSBA à Regina, et j'ai assisté à l'AGA de l'ACSTA à Edmonton. Ces deux assemblées furent excellentes, et ont fait place à de nombreux échanges sur les défis de l'éducation catholique, mais aussi à plusieurs célébrations des accomplissements de ces provinces. Lors de l'AGA de l'ACSTA, Paul Bourassa a été élu vice-président et se joindra donc au conseil d'administration de l'ACCEC.

Nous avons reçu de nombreux commentaires positifs au sujet du congrès/AGA de Niagara Falls. La planification de l'AGA de 2018 à Kelowna bat son plein. L'inscription à cet événement commencera en janvier et nous vous ferons part des détails dès que possible. Lors de mon séjour à Edmonton pour l'AGA de l'ACSTA, j'en ai profité pour me rendre à Canmore et rencontrer l'équipe qui s'occupera de notre AGA de 2019. À Kelowna comme à Canmore, les installations sont réellement hors pair, et nous espérons vous y rencontrer toutes et tous !

Nous sommes toujours à la recherche d'un hôte pour le congrès/AGA de 2020. Si vous êtes intéressés et que vous désirez plus de détails, n'hésitez pas à joindre le Bureau de l'ACCEC.

Pour finir, je vous souhaite un Joyeux Noël, et vous offre mes meilleurs vœux pour 2018 !



Julian Hanlon
Directeur général

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For news and links, visit our website at www.ccsta.ca.

P'AGA 2018



FROM FRONT PAGE

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• MLA Norm Letnick – Advocating for Change from a Provincial Government

• Dr Peter Froese – Strategies in Negotiating Successfully with Government

• Mgr Michael Miller - Evangelization: What Does That Mean in our Catholic Schools?

Il y aura aussi les activités sociales : plantation d'un arbre jeudi après-midi, réception jeudi soir après la conférence d'ouverture, dîner et danse au Okanagan Golf Club, messe samedi soir, suivie du banquet au Delta Grand Okanagan.

Plusieurs élèves de différentes écoles sauront vous divertir grâce à leurs talents variés.

Le site web sera bientôt disponible s'il ne l'est déjà, et l'inscription sera ouverte en janvier.

Comme c'est le cas à tous les congrès de l'ACCEC, l'hôtel du congrès affiche déjà complet. À ceux qui auraient réservé au-delà des besoins de leur district, veuillez s'il vous plaît annuler les chambres dont vous n'aurez pas besoin, pour permettre à d'autres de s'en prévaloir. Nous sommes à considérer réserver bientôt un autre groupe de chambres, mais nous ne voulons pas payer inutilement des chambres qui resteront inoccupées à cause d'un grand nombre d'annulations tardives. Nous vous remercions de votre coopération. En attendant, nous suggérons aux autres de réserver dans les deux autres hôtels indiqués sur le site Internet de l'ACCEC.

J'offre à toutes et à tous mes meilleurs vœux pour une merveilleuse période de l'Avent et un Noël rempli de joie. Puissiez-vous profiter pleinement de ces moments précieux qui n'arrivent qu'une fois l'an.

Calling All Students: Develop our Toonies for Tuition Logo and Promotional Poster

Are you a student who loves design? Are you an artist? A graphic designer?

Then we want to see your creations.

To help promote the CCSTA Toonies for Tuition initiative, we're reaching out to young artists from across the country to get creative and design a Toonies for Tuition logo and poster that speaks to the cause.

Our Toonies for Tuition program is a fundraising initiative to raise funds for the CCSTA Charitable Foundation. This foundation provides funding to students from across Canada who have to pay tuition to attend a Catholic school. These bursaries help to cover the financial restraints of attending elementary or high school where Catholic education is only partially funded by the government or not at all. And this funding happens thanks to Toonies for Tuition.

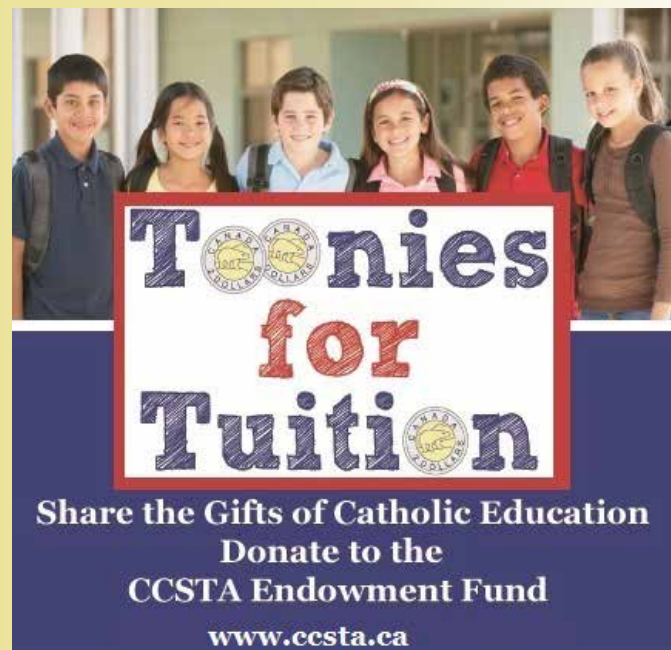
About the Contest

The contest is open to all students enrolled in a Catholic school in Canada and they can be in JK or Grade 12 and everything in between.

"We know that the best people to ask for help on the design are our students," says CCSTA President Marino Gazzola. "We want the poster to be vibrant, bold and grab your attention. There are so many creative students in every single school, and we can't wait to see what they develop."

The winning designer can use it for their portfolio, and CCSTA will happily provide a referral letter for this contribution.

The contest will run from Dec. 1, 2017-Feb. 28, 2018 and the winner will be announced the end of March. The winner will receive a Best Buy gift card for \$200. And if a class collaborates on the logo and poster design and wins, we will provide a \$400 Best Buy gift card.



Ready to Design?

Here's are some links where you can learn more about

Toonies for Tuition:

- Toonies For Tuition Charitable Foundation
- Toonies for Tuition online donation webpage
- Contest Guidelines and Submission Form

Refer to the contest guidelines and submission form for details.

We're looking forward to seeing what's created, and if you have any questions, you can reach out to us at ccsta@ocsb.ca.

Contest closes Feb. 28, 2018 and the winning entry will be announced the end of March, 2018.

Appel à tous les élèves: Créez notre logo Toonies for Tuition et notre affiche promotionnelle

Aimes-tu le graphisme ? Es-tu artiste ou concepteur graphique ? Nous voulons voir tes œuvres.

Pour promouvoir notre programme Toonies for Tuition, nous faisons appel aux jeunes artistes de partout au pays pour créer un logo et une affiche qui représente bien la cause.

Toonies for Tuition est un programme de collecte de fonds pour la fondation de bienfaisance de l'ACCEC. Cette fondation fournit de l'argent à des élèves de partout au Canada qui doivent payer des frais d'inscription pour fréquenter l'école catholique. Ces bourses d'études aident à diminuer le fardeau financier d'élèves du primaire et du secondaire dans les provinces où l'éducation catholique n'est subventionnée qu'en partie par le gouvernement, et dans certains cas, pas du tout.

C'est grâce à Toonies for tuition que cela arrive.

Au sujet du concours :

Le concours s'adresse à tous les élèves inscrits à l'école catholique au Canada, de la maternelle à la 12e année. « Nous savons que nos élèves seront les meilleurs pour créer le design, dit Marino Gazzola, président de l'ACCEC. Nous voulons une affiche vibrante, audacieuse et qui attire l'attention. Nos écoles accueillent un grand nombre d'élèves créatifs. Nous avons hâte de voir ce qu'ils sauront développer. »

Le gagnant ou la gagnante pourra inclure son œuvre à son portfolio, et l'ACCEC lui fournira gracieusement une lettre de recommandation.

Le concours se déroulera du 1er décembre 2017 au 28 février 2018. Le nom de la gagnante ou du gagnant sera annoncé peu après la fin du concours. Il ou elle se méritera un certificat cadeau de 200\$ chez Best Buy. Si l'entrée gagnante est le fruit de l'effort collectif d'une classe, nous offrirons alors un certificat cadeau de 400\$ chez Best Buy.

Exigences pour le logo et l'affiche :

Veuillez consulter les règlements du concours.

Prêts à commencer ?

Visitez le site web de l'ACCEC pour en savoir plus sur Toonies for Tuition.

- Toonies For Tuition Fondation de bienfaisance
- Toonies for Tuition : dons en ligne
- Règlements du concours et Formulaire de participation

Pour plus de détails, consulter les règlements du concours et formulaire de participation

Nous avons hâte de voir ce que vous saurez créer ! Pour plus de détails, veuillez nous joindre à l'adresse ccsta@ocsb.ca.

Le concours se termine le 28 février 2018 et la proposition gagnante sera annoncée à la fin mars 2018.

CCSTA Lobby Day a Success

After meeting with MPs from around the country across the span of two days, CCSTA is confident in its support from political representatives at the federal level.

On Oct. 30 and 31, CCSTA Board of Directors scheduled meetings with MPs to discuss Catholic education in Canada and its long-serving role since the country's earliest days.

They met on Parliament Hill, followed by an open reception for networking.

"In my view, overall, the day was a huge success," says CCSTA President Marino Gazzola. "We were very well received and had many very positive comments."

The first meeting included a sit down with the Leader of the Opposition Party, Andrew Scheer. Scheer – who is a Catholic school graduate – reiterated his support to the system.

"Mr. Scheer was unequivocal in his support," says CCSTA Executive Director Julian Hanlon. "He said

if we ever need his backing, don't hesitate to call."

The following day, CCSTA hosted several meetings individually with MPs including Charlie Angus, Earl Dreeshen and Peter Fonseca.

"The meetings were outstanding," says Mr. Gazzola. "Very strong support for Catholic education was indicated by almost every MP that we met with. The highlight of the day for me was two of my MP meetings ended with the comment, 'if you need someone to stand up in the house and speak in favour of Catholic education, I am your man'."

According to Mr. Hanlon, they consistently received the same message from the MPs.

"The key message from many was keep doing what you are doing; do not let up and continue promoting your system," he explains.

Reception

Following the Oct. 31 meetings, CCSTA hosted an evening reception on Parliament Hill.

"The reception went well," says Mr. Gazzola. "Those who attended were positive, supportive and spoke highly of our system. Many are graduates of our system and have children or grandchildren in our system."

Anthony Rota from The Liberal Party, Conservative Harold Albrecht and Charlie Angus of the NDP spoke at the reception.

"All three were very encouraging and were adamant that we continue our work in support of Catholic education," says Mr. Gazzola.

From here, CCSTA will follow up with the MPs to continue to build on these meetings to foster these relationships.

"Part of our missions includes political advocacy, and these meetings and reception put us in front of our politicians to have meaningful conversations regarding the impact of Catholic education in Canada," says Mr. Hanlon. "We'll continue on with this conversation."

La journée de lobbying de l'ACCEC est un succès

Après deux journées de rencontres avec les députés, l'ACCEC a confiance dans l'appui des représentants politiques fédéraux.

Les 30 et 31 octobre, le conseil d'administration de l'ACCEC rencontrait les députés pour discuter de l'éducation catholique au Canada et de son rôle prépondérant au pays depuis ses débuts.

La rencontre qui se déroulait sur la Colline a été suivie d'une réception qui avait pour but de favoriser le réseautage.

« À mon avis, la journée dans son ensemble a été couronnée de succès, dit Marino Gazzola, président de l'ACCEC. On nous a bien entendus, et les commentaires reçus étaient positifs. »

La première rencontre incluait une tête-à-tête avec le chef de l'Opposition officielle, Andrew Scheer. Ce dernier, un gradué de l'école catholique, a réitéré son appui à notre système.

« L'appui de M. Scheer est sans équivoque, dit Julian Hanlon, directeur général de l'ACCEC. Il nous a dit que si jamais nous avons besoin de son appui, nous n'avons qu'à lui faire signe. »

Le lendemain, l'ACCEC a accueilli plusieurs petites réunions privées avec des députés, dont Charlie Angus, Earl Dreeshen et Peter Fonseca.

« Ces rencontres furent extraordinaires, de dire M. Gazzola. Presque tous les députés rencontrés nous ont assurés de leur appui. Pour moi, le fait saillant de la journée fut ce commentaire de deux des députés lors de rencontres dont je faisais partie : Si jamais vous avez besoin que quelqu'un se lève en chambre

pour parler en faveur de l'éducation catholique, je suis votre homme. »

Hanlon confirme que ce message des députés était la norme. « Plusieurs nous ont dit de continuer à faire ce que nous faisons, de ne jamais abandonner et de continuer à promouvoir notre système, » explique-t-il.

Réception

Après les réunions du 31 octobre, l'ACCEC a tenu une réception sur la Colline du parlement.

« La réception s'est bien déroulée, dit M. Gazzola. Ceux qui y ont participé étaient très positifs et tenaient notre système en haute estime. Plusieurs sont des gradués du système catholique et ont des enfants ou des petits-enfants qui fréquentent notre système. »

Anthony Rota, du Parti libéral, le Conservateur Harold Albrecht et le néo-démocrate Charlie Angus ont présenté une allocution lors de la réception.

« Tous les trois ont offert un message d'appui et nous pressent de continuer notre travail de promotion de l'éducation catholique, » dit M. Gazzola.

Maintenant, l'ACCEC va faire le suivi de ces rencontres auprès des députés et continuer de cultiver et renforcer ces liens.

« Le plaidoyer politique est l'une de nos missions. Ces rencontres avec nos politiciens nous permettent d'avoir des conversations significatives au sujet de l'éducation catholique au Canada, dit M. Hanlon. Nous allons poursuivre ces conversations. »



CCSTA Execs Meet with Saskatchewan Politicians, talk Theodore Carse

Back in June, CCSTA President Marino Gazzola and Executive Director Julian Hanlon met with federal politicians to discuss one thing: The Theodore Case.

This comes after the Court ruled that the government must stop funding non-minority faith students to attend separate schools.

As such, CCSTA wanted to demonstrate its support to the Saskatchewan Catholic School Board Association.

So, they arranged to get in front of politicians to talk about the situation and what it means – and could mean – for Catholic education opportunities in the province.

Working alongside Matt Triemstra from Ensignt Canada, Mr. Gazzola and Mr. Hanlon had many meetings with individual MPs and caucus members from Saskatchewan.

“We first provided them with information about CCSTA in general, and more specifically to inform them of the background and current status of the Theodore matter,” explains Mr. Gazzola. “We were successful on both counts.”

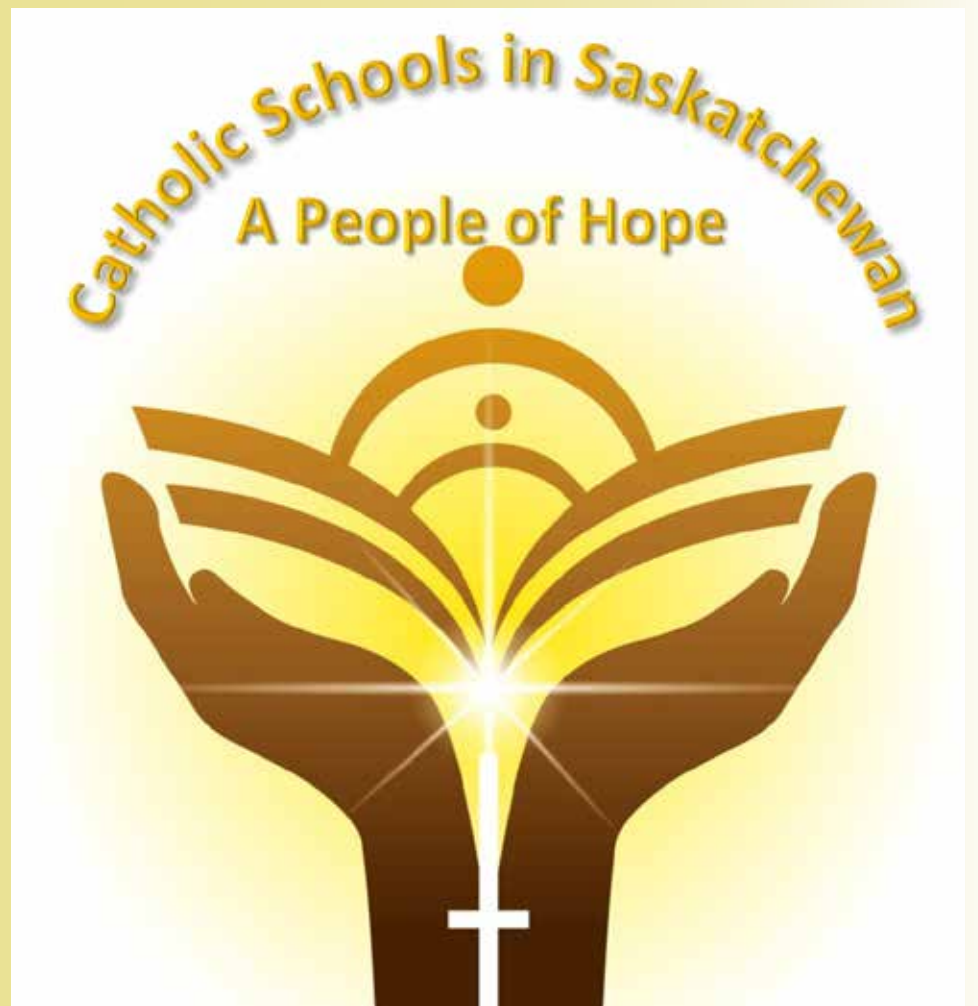
They met individually with Senator David Tkachuk, (Conservative Senator); Stephanie Delorme and Andrea Faubert, (Stakeholder relations and policy advisor, respectively) from the office of The Official Opposition Leader Andrew Scheer; Jessica Morrison, Issues manager for Ralph Goodale, (the only Liberal member from Saskatchewan); and NDP MP Erin Weir.

“As a group, we were also fortunate to have the opportunity to speak to members of the Conservative caucus, and to two other Senators, during their regular caucus meeting,” adds Mr. Gazzola. Those MPs included Kevin Waugh, David Anderson, Brad Trost, Kathy Wagantall, and Kelly Block, along with Senator Denise Batters and Senator Raynell Andreychuk. Senator Tkachuk was also present at the caucus meeting.

“Overall, the responses were extremely positive and supportive of our Association. We received great support for our Catholic education system, including the parent’s right to choose and religious rights. That was very evident,” says Mr. Gazzola. “Many of the members that we met with asked pointed questions, and were very interested in our discussions. Several members indicated a personal or family connection to the Catholic education system.”

Mr. Gazzola and Mr. Hanlon say they were pleased with the results from their meetings, and the Ensignt advisors also provided positive feedback from the experience.

Mr. Gazzola cited his appreciation to both Mr. Hanlon and CCSTA Executive Assistant Jean Montminy for coordinating these meetings, and to



Mr. Triemstra from Ensignt for his assistance and advice.

“It is our opinion that we left everyone with a positive opinion of CCSTA and put our organization in a good position going forward, particularly in the event that we need to call on MPs for future assistance,” says Mr. Gazzola.

As for the Theodore Case’s current status, it has now been taken to the Provincial Court of Appeal by the Saskatchewan Catholic School Board Association. The association’s legal counsel has advised that the initial appeal would take between eight to 12 months, with an appeal before the Supreme Court taking anywhere from three to five years.

L’affaire Theodore – l’exécutif de l’ACCEC rencontre les députés de la Saskatchewan

En juin dernier, Marino Gazzola, président de l’ACCEC, et Julian Hanlon, directeur général, se sont rendus en Saskatchewan pour rencontrer les députés fédéraux et discuter d’un unique sujet : l’affaire Théodore.

Ceci fait suite à la décision de la Cour provinciale, selon laquelle le Gouvernement doit cesser toute subvention aux élèves de confession non minoritaire qui fréquentent les écoles séparées.

L’ACCEC voulait en substance manifester son appui à la Saskatchewan Catholic School Board Association.

Alors ils ont rencontré les politiciens face à face pour discuter de cette situation et de son impact réel et éventuel sur les opportunités d’obtenir une éducation catholique dans cette province.

Avec la collaboration de Matt Triemstra d’Ensignt Canada, M. Gazzola et M. Hanlon ont eu plusieurs rencontres avec des députés et d’autres membres du caucus de la Saskatchewan.

« D’abord, nous leur avons fourni des informations au sujet de l’ACCEC en général, puis des détails sur l’historique et la situation actuelle dans l’affaire Theodore, » explique M. Gazzola. « Nous avons réussi sur tous les tableaux. »

Ils ont rencontré individuellement le sénateur conservateur David Tkachuk ; Stéphanie Delorme

(relations avec les intervenants) et Andrea Faubert (conseillère politique), du bureau d’Andrew Sheer, leader de l’opposition officielle ; Jessica Morrison, gestionnaire des enjeux pour Ralph Goodale, le seul député libéral de la Saskatchewan ; la députée néo-démocrate, Erin Weir.

« Nous avons aussi eu la chance de parler aux membres du caucus conservateur et à deux autres sénateurs au cours d’une de leurs rencontres, » ajoute M. Gazzola. Parmi ces députés se trouvaient Kevin Waugh, David Anderson,

Brad Trost, Kathy Wagantall, et Kelly Block, ainsi que la sénatrice Denise Batters et le sénateur Raynell Andreychuk. Le sénateur Tkachuk était aussi présent lors de la rencontre du caucus.

« En somme, sauf une exception, les réactions ont été très positives et favorables à notre association, à l’éducation catholique, à notre système et au droit des parents au choix et aux droits religieux. C’était évident, » dit M. Gazzola. « Plusieurs députés avaient des questions très précises et se sont montrés intéressés à nos discussions. Plusieurs ont aussi mentionné leur lien familial particulier avec le système d’éducation catholique. »

Gazzola et M. Hanlon ont dit être très satisfaits de l’issue de leurs rencontres, et les conseillers de chez Ensignt ont aussi offert une rétroaction positive de cette expérience.

Gazzola a fait part de son appréciation pour le travail de M. Hanlon et de l’assistante administrative de l’ACCEC, Jean Montminy, dans la coordination de ces rencontres, et de M. Triemstra de chez Ensignt pour ses conseils judiciaires.

« Nous croyons que nous avons laissé une perception positive de l’ACCEC et que nous avons placé notre organisation dans une position favorable pour la suite des événements, surtout dans l’éventualité de devoir solliciter l’aide ces députés dans l’avenir, » dit M. Gazzola.

En ce qui attrait à l’affaire Theodore, la Saskatchewan Catholic School Board Association a porté la cause en appel à la Cour d’appel provinciale. Les conseillers juridiques de l’association nous ont dit que l’appel durerait de huit à douze mois, et que si on allait en Cour suprême, le délai serait de trois à cinq ans.

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British Columbia

Federation of Independent Schools of BC - FISA

NDP/ Green Coalition - The new BC Minister of Education is the Hon. Rob Fleming and the Deputy Education Minister is Scott MacDonald. They are very supportive of Independent Schools.

Classroom Enhancement Fund - FISA is very grateful for the additional funds provided to Independent schools through the Classroom Enhancement Fund. These funds are only for operating costs. The Ministry of Education and FISA recommends that independent schools use these funds to address staffing and salary compensation issues, especially if the salaries paid are significantly lower than the public sector. The public sector is required to provide the government with a full accounting of how they have allocated the funds in each district. Regulatory requirements do not oblige independent school authorities to report how operating funds are used. FISA has asked school authorities to voluntarily report to FISA on how the CEF funds have helped in strengthening and improving the learning program in independent schools.

Teacher Retention and Recruiting - This has not been as much of an issue as they would have expected. A bigger issue is the number of people who are unavailable for the substitute list due to being hired full time.

Fentanyl Crisis - It is affecting students in schools. Naloxone Risk Assessment Tool and Kits are available for schools should they feel a need to request one.

Catholic Schools Week – Catholic schools week will run from February 4th – 10th 2018. The theme is “Care for everyone in our Common Home.”

Catholic Independent Schools Diocese of Kamloops

Supporting students with special needs has become a growing area for all schools, particularly for ASCEND Online. ASCEND now has 60 funded special needs students and they expect 80 by September 2017.

This is the Catholic Distributed Learning School – All Saints Catholic E-school Nelson Diocese Network. They enroll students from across the province and the On-line service continues to grow. There is also a fair amount of international interest for online courses.

There are five Catholic Independent schools in the diocese. St. Ann's Academy established in 1880 is a K-12 school and Our Lady of Perpetual Help is a K-7 both located in Kamloops, St. James K - 7 in Vernon, Sacred Heart K - 7 in Williams Lake and St Ann's K - 7 in Quesnel.

Catholic Independent Schools Diocese of Nelson

The diocese has a total of six Catholic elementary schools which are located in Nelson, Trail, Cranbrook, Penticton, Kelowna, West Kelowna and one high school in Kelowna.

The St. Joseph Building project has been completed adding 12 new classrooms and a major renovation of the office area, classrooms, library

and computer lab.

The cost was \$4.8 million. Pledges from the parishes were \$1.5 million, pledges from the diocese were \$500,000, pledges from donors to date are \$1.67 million and the remaining amount to be raised is \$1.13 million.

Catholic Independent Schools Diocese of Prince George

There are 8 elementary schools in the Diocese. Annunciation School in Prince Rupert K-8, St Anthony's in Kitimat K-7, Veritas in Terrace K - 6 and 7-9, St Joseph's in Smithers K - 7, Notre Dame in Dawson Creek K - 7, Sacred Heart K -7, Immaculate Conception K - 7 and St Mary's K -7 are located in Prince George.

The enrolment for 2017/2018 is presently at 1,580 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) students. The number of “funded” Special Education students is 60.

There were 28 teaching positions filled for the 2017/2018 school year.

Catholic Independent Schools Vancouver Archdiocese

The CISVA have 46 schools. There are 40 elementary schools (K-7) and 6 secondary schools (8 -12) with a combined student population of over 16,340 students. There are three Catholic congregational secondary schools that are associate members of CIS. Enrollment has been modestly increasing over the past five years.

The most exciting news is the start of a new high school in south Surrey with an opening for September, 2018.

St. Catherine's and St. Joseph the Worker are celebrating a big victory after tying for First Place in the Annual CISVA Elementary Track and Field Meet. Five thousand teachers, Principals, parents and community members volunteered or cheered from the sidelines. It was a great community builder. The event, under the sponsorship of the Knights of Columbus, began in 1944.

Catholic Independent Schools Diocese of Victoria

There are five elementary schools in the Diocese - Queen of Angels K-9 in Duncan, John Paul 11 K-8 in Port Alberni, St. Joseph's K-7 in Chemainus. St. Patrick's K-7, St. Joseph's K-7 and St. Andrew's 8-12 are in Victoria.

Emergency Preparedness is being monitored in four schools so that they parallel the provincial guidelines.

The Catholic Schools Plan began in 2011. Last May, the CSP Oversight Committee started to spend more time and focus on the future plans for St. Andrew's Regional High School. The Diocese of Victoria contracted Doug Lauson, retired Superintendent of the Archdiocese of Vancouver to facilitate focus groups in order to seek input from cross section of students, parents and all staff before architects were engaged for the partial rebuild and renovation.

Some of the results of the focus groups were that the school should:

- Be a modern looking facility with as much natural light as possible
- Have a welcoming foyer with a Catholic religious character
- Have a comfortable gathering area for students
- A Resource Centre that is a technological hub of the school

- Technology to support 21st Century learning
- A Fine Arts area allowing for public performances
- An athletic field to support athletic and extracurricular programs

Garyati Architect Inc. has been hired. The 13 million dollar work began this past summer with a completion date set for September 2019. The cost will be financed by a 12 year mortgage. The project will cost more than the funds that are currently available due to rising building costs. Fundraising will be required to support the full project to completion.

Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese

Catholic elementary and secondary education continues to be a high priority for the Archdiocese of Vancouver as reflected in the significant resources that have been invested in developing the system of education in the Archdiocese. This collective legacy that has been built over the years now includes a total of 46 schools – 40 elementary (grades kindergarten to 7) and six secondary (grades 8 to 12) schools with a combined student population of over 16,386 students as of September 2017. * There are, additionally, 3 Catholic congregational secondary schools, and a minor seminary that are associate members of CISVA.

Current enrollment across the 46 CISVA schools is 14,138 at Sept 30, 2017, showing a similar growth pattern over previous years. Aggregate Catholic enrollment is at 87% with individual school Catholic enrollment varying significantly between 54 and 100%.

St. Thomas Aquinas High School has now embarked upon a \$27 million rebuild of its school. The project has begun and is scheduled for completion in 18-24 months.

CISVA is planning for the opening of a new Catholic Gr. 8-12 high school in South Surrey. St. John Paul II Academy is slated to open its doors and enroll its first class of Grade 8 students in September, 2018. It will begin on the Good Shepherd Parish and Star of the Sea School site and will relocate to its permanent address of 18230 24 Ave Surrey after 1-2 years of operation.

The nine members of the Educational Staff of the Superintendent's Office continue to strive to build capacity across the CISVA by providing professional development support to our 46 schools in the areas of faith development, growth planning (school, principal and teacher), curriculum and instruction, and learning support. The team plans, implements and coordinates a large number of educational support services and programs that are responsive to the diverse needs of our school communities.

This year, as we continue working toward a shared vision – A Vision for Learning – to provide excellence in Catholic education in a Christ-centered learning environment, the foci of our collective work will be:

1. To continue to support teachers on the use of the CISVA Unit Planning Framework to ensure that all planning is done through the lens of a Catholic Worldview. Four “Training the Trainer” sessions will be provided this year to create sample unit plans for grades K-12.

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2. To create a CISVA Graduate Profile that will inform the teaching and learning in all classrooms. Instructional practices will reflect the concepts, competencies and attitudes embodied in this profile.

3. To ensure that effective practices for the communication and reporting of student progress to parents occurs in our schools. As the curriculum has changed, so too must our assessment and reporting practices. A Learning Team of principals and staff of the Superintendent's Office will meet to research and recommend Communicating Student Learning to Parents policies and procedures. Informed by this information the Superintendent's Office will establish the policies and procedures that will be used across the CISVA to ensure that the reporting of student progress aligns with the needs of CISVA schools.

CISVA/Ministry of Education Evaluations

The purpose of this evaluation is two-fold: to verify specific items from the Ministry External Evaluation Catalogue as well as the CISVA Self-Assessment Document that the school had completed prior to the evaluation. The intent of a CISVA School Evaluation is:

- To provide a process for school communities to use to examine, reflect upon and to self-assess their school.
- To provide an opportunity for an evaluation team to identify and articulate the school's own particular strengths and areas for growth that recognizes the unique characteristics of each school community.
- To provide a written evaluation report that stimulates a school community to continue to develop school growth plans that will further enhance student learning and development through focused and sustained action directed at agreed upon goals.
- To verify evidence from the Ministry External Evaluation Catalogue and ensure that schools meet, and maintain, the legislated standards and requirements for Group 1 classification.

This verification occurs through classroom observation, examination of records and dialogue. Team members look for evidence to indicate that the staff has worked to implement and maintain best practices in planning, assessment, and evaluation. The evaluation report will acknowledge the school's achievements with regard to the CISVA Self-Assessment Document and, in addition, will further challenge the school in specific areas to foster continued growth.

School Year Theme 2017-2018

The development of a school year theme has been a long-standing CISVA tradition that serves as a wonderful faith community building activity across the system. Our 40th annual theme "Care for Everyone in our Common Home" is based on Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'*, on Care for Our Common Home. This year, schools will strive to integrate the theme across the curriculum through a wide variety of faith-based activities and projects that will inspire us to infuse our school environments with the hope of Pope Francis' message.

Alberta/NWT

Advocacy

The Elected Officers and Executive Director of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA) continue engage with the Minister of Education, MLAs and stakeholder groups to discuss issues relevant to Catholic Education important to ACSTA member boards.

As 2017 is an election year, the ACSTA worked hard to promote trusteeship throughout the months leading up to the nomination deadline of September 18th. Municipal elections in Alberta take place on October 16, 2017. The ACSTA in conjunction with the four Alberta Bishops held Catholic Trustee information sessions in May and June. Locations were Calgary, Edmonton, Grand Prairie and Ft. McMurray. Meetings were well received in all areas.

The ACSTA approved at their May 2017 Board meeting to have Dentons Canada conduct an internal and external audit. Over the course of the summer, Dr. Robert Murray, Managing Director - Government Affairs and Public Policy Practice Group, compiled the findings, which were presented to Board at the Strategic Planning Workshop on September 14. The workshop was well received and the ACSTA Advocacy/Communications Committee is now tasked to flesh out a concrete plan for next steps, based on Dr. Murray's report.

AGM 2017

The ACSTA 2017 AGM took place from November 17 to 19 at the Westin Edmonton.

The ACSTA held a silent auction to support the Toonies for Tuition program and Development & Peace during the Awards Banquet on November

18.

Faith Development

The ACSTA will be holding its 2018 faith development retreats SPICE from April 26 - April 29 and Blueprints from May 1-4, 2018. The Rev. Dr. Richard Leonard will be the Keynote speaker for both events.

Communications

The ACSTA continues to engage and maintain in constant communication with its member boards via regular President's Updates, weekly media news headlines updates, social media updates via Twitter, and through the ACSTA publication, The Catholic Dimension.

The summer issue of The Catholic Dimension was released in June and was met with positive feedback. The winter 2017 issue will be released in early December. The ACSTA Facebook page, which was launched in September of 2016 (<https://www.facebook.com/ACSTANews/>), has received excellent feedback as well, and is updated on a daily basis. It has helped us better get messages out pertaining to Catholic education, and has been a good tool to use for announcements as well.

The Annual Report was released at the end of May and is an important communication tool we use it to share with our many stakeholders the wonderful and important things we do for Catholic education in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon. It gives a good glimpse into what we were up to in the year 2016, which was our 50th Anniversary year.

The final top three video entries for the ACSTA G.R.A.C.E. 3 (God's Riches Alive in Catholic Education) student video contest were announced in June. The results are below.



Bishop Emeritus Henry receives the Honourary Life Membership Award at the ACSTA AGM (Photo: ACSTA)

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First Place - \$500 prize - Meegan McLaughlin – “Amazing Grace” - St. Augustine Catholic School (Ponoka), St. Thomas Aquinas Roman (STAR) Catholic Schools

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LoxtmISG2Q>

Second Place - \$300 prize - Allison Guthrie – “On Catholic Schools” - École Secondaire Notre Dame High School (Red Deer), Red Deer Catholic Schools

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZShZWUXiVOg&feature=youtu.be>

Third Place - \$200 prize - Ejovan Agena – “A Community in Christ Through Catholic Education” - Archbishop MacDonald High School (Edmonton), Edmonton Catholic Schools <https://youtu.be/pXyoISN2I5w>

The ACSTA, in conjunction Edmonton Catholic Schools, held the fifth provincial communicators meeting on September 29, in Sherwood Park, with EICS hosting.

The ACSTA is working on a new website, and is in the mid to late planning stages with a tentative launch date set for after our AGM in November.

Governance

The 2018 ACSTA Operating Budget proposal was accepted at the September 14 meeting, and will be presented at the 2017 Annual General Meeting.

Saskatchewan

Planning Retreat

Effective September 1, 2017, Tom Fortosky became the new Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association (SCSBA) replacing Ken Loehndorf. We wish Ken every happiness as he begins his retirement in Medicine Hat. The SCSBA report is as follows:

Theodore Litigation

As reported in June, on April 20 we received a disappointing result in the Theodore case. The trial judge essentially held that the government is not allowed to fund non-Catholic children whose parents choose to send them to Catholic schools. On April 28 we announced our intention to appeal the decision to the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal. The appeal had the support of all eight Catholic boards in the province. The Government of Saskatchewan joined us in filing our respective appeals on May 19.

On May 1 Premier Brad Wall also announced that the Government of Saskatchewan would be invoking the “notwithstanding clause” under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to effectively maintain the current system for a period of 5 years from the date the legislation is passed. We thank Premier Wall for calming the fears of parents who



Trinity Western University students serve up hot chocolate outside the Supreme Court (photo: TWU Twitter)

were concerned about the effect of the decision for their children. We are blessed to have such support from the Government.

In June, a fund-raising campaign to help defray the costs of the appeal was started: the “Catholic Education Matters Campaign”. A website has been created with an ability for individuals to make contributions on line and to receive a tax receipt. A fund-raising committee was formed at the September Board of Directors meeting to reinvigorate the campaign.

We are faced with additional legal costs as a result of an application by the public boards to get an award of costs against the Government and possibly against us. The application was supposed to be heard on October 11, but has been adjourned to November 22.

Trinity Western Case

SCSBA joined with the ACSTA as part of a group called the National Coalition of Catholic School Trustees' Associations. The group has been granted intervener status in the Trinity Western Case which is being heard by the Supreme Court of Canada. Briefly, the case concerns certain law societies that wish to deny law school graduates of Trinity Western the ability to practice law in their respective provinces because Trinity Western insists on having students sign a covenant to, among other things, “abstain from...sexual intimacy that violates the sacredness of marriage between a man and a woman”. The case is considered to be of national importance insofar as religious rights are concerned. The group has filed their factum and the Supreme Court of Canada appeal will be heard on November 30, 2017.

Communications Committee:

The communications committee continues develop and implement a communication plan for the organization. It works closely with communications coordinators for each of the Catholic school divisions in the province. Deacon Joe Lang will again be employed part-time as SCSBA Communications Coordinator for 2017-2018. He has done considerable work in maintaining and updating the website as well as the materials on the website. Good News stories for the “Faith in Our Students Campaign” continue to be submitted and placed on the website.

2017 SCSBA Spring Seminar:

Special thanks to Light of Christ RCSSD #16 for hosting a much-needed Spring Seminar in Saskatoon on April 28-29, coming at a time when all were struggling with transformational change initiated by the Government. We are grateful that our God provides us with what we need when we need it.

Transformational Change Process

A lot of effort continues to be spent dealing with the transformational change agenda of the Government. After much lobbying, the Government scaled back the amendments that were going to be made to the Education Act leaving some School Board powers in the Act instead of moving them to the Regulations. The Government has also agreed to work with School Boards on a more comprehensive review of the Education Act. School Boards have also been giving input on new Regulations.

Property Taxation Amendments

SCSBA used a legal opinion from our legal counsel Dick Batten to convince the Government to change proposed amendments that would take property taxation away from school divisions. Catholic boards can now opt out of the new legislation and continue to collect property taxes. New regulations also needed to be reviewed.

HIV/AIDS Education Resource Development Committee

A committee was appointed to address updating of the HIV/AIDS resources. Some resources from the Archdioceses of Los Angeles were reviewed, but it was found that the material would not meet our needs. Creation of lesson plans for certain grades will be undertaken during the 2017-2018 school year with the hope that they will be prepared and reviewed by our bishops in time for the 2018-2019 school year.

2017 Joint Convention and AGM

SCSBA and the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS) hosted a joint convention on October 20-22, 2017 at the Double Tree

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by Hilton Hotel in Regina. The conference theme was “Ministering To God’s Beloved: serving and learning from those who are vulnerable”. At the AGM on Saturday, October 21, Vicky Bonnell was elected to serve as President and Delmer Wagner was elected as Vice-President. Paula Scott will remain a member of the executive committee as Past-President and will serve as the SCSBA representative on the CCSTA.

On Saturday evening at the Convention Banquet and Awards Ceremony, the SCSBA presented the following awards:

- Appreciation Awards to Bernadette Cey, Bruno Tuchscherer and Bishop Albert Thevenot.
- The Julian Paslawski Meritorious Service Award was presented to Bud Bohun

Manitoba

Gonzaga Middle School Opens Doors

A new Catholic school opened in Winnipeg oSchool enrolment continues to be strong although there are some small fluctuations in individual school communities. As of September 30th we have a reported student population of approx. 5200 from kindergarten to grade twelve in our 19 schools. This represents a 1.7% increase over the 2016/17 school year. There was an increased turnover in staff this year as there were many retirements in June and some movement to the public system. There were 48 participants at our new staff workshop in September. There are usually 30 participants at this workshop. The workshop covers the History and Governance of Catholic Schools in Manitoba and the Manitoba Catholic Schools Code of Professional Ethics as well as Respect in Schools training.

Transgender/Gender Diverse Student Support

Supporting Transgender and Gender Diverse Students in Manitoba Schools is a support document that was developed as guidelines for school divisions/schools and was released in August by the Department of Education. While these are only guidelines they could be seen by parents as the way that all schools should operate in the Province of Manitoba. We were represented on the consultation committee by Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools (MFIS), myself included. This consultation only occurred once at the start of the process before many changes occurred to the document by bureaucrats in the Department of Education. MFIS requested a meeting with the Minister of Education the Hon. Ian Wishart to express our concerns about the process that took place. The Minister acknowledged our concerns and had our names removed from the document. He agreed to write a letter of comfort that will acknowledge that these are only guidelines and are not binding on independent schools. The Manitoba Catholic Schools Board of Consultors is currently developing an accommodation policy that will be based on our Respect for Human Dignity and Equality Policy that will allow for individual student accommodations on a case by case basis. It

will not specifically be directed at non-conforming gender students but will address all requests for accommodations including those characteristics found in the Manitoba Human Rights Code.

International Student Restrictions

We also have concerns about a new regulation that was released in July that restricts international students to 20% of the student population of any public or independent school. This is the first time that restrictions have been placed on our enrolment. No consultations occurred. We believe as educational partners there should be dialogue with the Department when there are regulations that could have an impact on our schools. The international student percentage is currently not a concern for Catholic Schools as we have few in our system due to limited space in our schools. The regulation could have an impact on some independent schools that have boarding students and who currently come close to the 20% cap. This issue was also raised with the Minister of Education. He has committed to consulting with us on issues that affect our schools in the future.

With the approval of the new Staff Faith Formation Policy in April of 2017, there had been increased in demand for the Foundations of the Catholic Faith program which is a five-day course offered by the Manitoba Catholic Schools Office. All new teachers to the system have two years to complete the program and existing teachers who do not have an equivalent program or course work have 4 years. The Manitoba Bishops believe the policy will help support the faith formation of our teaching staff.

Ontario

Legal Challenges

OCSTA is pleased that the Coalition of Catholic Trustees was given intervenor status in the Trinity Western Case and we continue to consult with legal counsel and our Catholic Trustee Association partners with regard to the Theodore challenge.

Governance Consultation

The Ministry of Education has resumed its consultation process on a number of school board governance issues which include:

- Access to an integrity commissioner and trustee code of conduct
- Broadening the Director of Education qualifications and recognizing equivalent qualifications from other jurisdictions
- Student trustee election processes and terms of office
- Trustee honoraria formula
- Electronic participation in school board meetings

OCSTA has consulted with members on this issue over several months and is in the process of completing the brief which will then be submitted to the government.

Catholic Education Symposium 2017

The Institute for Catholic Education’s 2017 Catholic Education Symposium was held in partnership with the French Catholic education community in Toronto on November 14 and 15, 2017.

The Symposium focused on the theme “Renewing the Promise: Exploring the Critical Role of Catholic Education in Contemporary Society” and was designed to help Catholic education leaders to better understand the ways in which Catholic schools serve and support the mission of the church, “while bringing the gifts of justice, peace and joy to our students and our province alike.”

As part of the preparation for this Symposium, boards were asked to assemble local teams to participate in the Symposium and to undertake the local process of consultation and engagement outlined in an information package that was distributed last spring. That feedback will help to inform the discussions planned for the November Symposium and the pastoral letter on Catholic education that will be prepared by Ontario’s bishops.

Curriculum Review

The Ontario government will be reviewing the K-12 curriculum to “better integrate” the government’s objectives regarding student achievement, student well-being and equity into a revised curriculum aligned to the Ministry of Education’s overall education strategy. Anticipated work includes changes in the design of student assessments and report cards, including a review of the EQAO testing process.

The proposed timeline for the review will be three to five years. All education partners will be consulted on all aspects of the curriculum and student assessment review.

Education Equity Plan

The Ontario government recently announced its “Education Equity Plan” which is part of a three-year strategy that intends to address potential unintentional consequences of existing structures, policies, programs and practices that may disadvantage certain student populations, including racialized students, students experiencing poverty, Indigenous students, newcomers to Canada, students who identify as LGBTQ, children and youth in care, religious minorities, French language minorities, students with disabilities and students with special education needs.

The Equity Action Plan will also look at the process of data collection to gain a further understanding of our students and their school experience. The plan will also look at addressing suspension, expulsion and exclusion rates in the province. With respect to Leadership and Governance the plan will look at enhancing diversity in hiring and promotion and look to remove systemic barriers to entry for underrepresented communities. Professional development will be focused on equity, inclusion and human rights.

Transportation Funding

The Ministry of Education has announced plans to review the student transportation grant model

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#togetherinfaith



OCSTA's Together in Faith

More information is located at:
<http://www.ocsta.on.ca/media-centre/2017-short-video-contest/>

Catholic Education Week

Catholic Education Week “back to school” resources were sent to all boards in August. This year’s theme is “Renewing the Promise.” Information regarding related class curriculum, reflections and activities are located at:
www.goodnewsforall.ca.

AFOCSC

Profil de la conseillère scolaire ou le conseiller scolaire catholique

Pendant l’été, une ébauche du profil de la conseillère scolaire ou du conseiller scolaire catholique a été complétée. Celui-ci vient s’ajouter au profil de l’élève catholique, au profil du personnel des écoles catholiques de langue française et au profil des écoles catholiques de langue française. Le profil de la conseillère ou du conseiller scolaire catholique de langue française est un document aspirationnel, c’est-à-dire, qu’il décrit les caractéristiques essentielles souhaitées afin qu’une élue ou un élu puisse remplir ses rôles et responsabilités. Le profil décrit onze éléments essentiels :

- Être témoin de la foi;
- Reconnaître la valeur ajoutée et l’historique de l’éducation catholique en langue française;
- Faire la promotion d’une éducation catholique en langue française de qualité;
- Articuler la mission et la vision du conseil scolaire;
- Participer activement à une gouvernance éthique en se basant sur les fondements de l’Église catholique;
- Assurer la nomination d’une direction de l’éducation et l’appuyer dans l’exercice de ses fonctions;
- Assurer une structure organisationnelle efficace et efficiente en respectant la mission et la vision du conseil catholique de langue française;
- Assurer que les ressources humaines et financières du conseil scolaire sont déployées pour la réussite des élèves;
- Établir un climat propice qui appuie les communautés scolaires;
- Monitorer la réussite des élèves;
- Créer et favoriser des partenariats entre l’école, la paroisse et les familles.

En plus de caractéristiques souhaitées, vous y retrouverez une section sur les critères légaux pour devenir candidate ou candidat aux élections. Enfin, à la fin du document en annexe, vous y retrouverez l’historique des dates importantes pour

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over the next 18 – 24 months. A committee is being established to lead this work and OCSTA has expressed to the Ministry of Education our keen interest in participating in this consultation process.

Well-being Strategy

The next steps of the Ministry of Education’s “Well-Being Strategy” includes funding for various well-being programs such as active transportation, breakfast programs and bullying prevention. The funding breakdown is as follows:

- Increasing support for school boards’ well-being priorities from \$6-12 million starting in 2018-19 school year
- Increasing funding for School Mental Health ASSIST by \$6 million over the next three years
- \$6 million in new and expanding programming to support staff well-being and classroom violence prevention; and
- Approximately \$4 million to expand active transportation options for students to and from school.

Staff Well-Being: Under the overall Well-being Strategy is a particular focus on staff well-being in Ontario’s education system. OCSTA is participating on the Ministry committee established to examine this matter and topics being discussed include: working conditions, peer-to-peer support and workload issues. As a participant on this committee, OCSTA requested that the government also respect and acknowledge the spiritual dimension of well-being in ALL discussion and documents developed as part of this initiative.

Executive Compensation Framework

The Ontario government passed amendments that altered a regulation made under the Broader Public Sector Executive Compensation Act that imposed requirements on school boards to implement an executive compensation framework within certain key parameters.

OCSTA participated on a provincial steering

committee to develop a provincial compensation framework that would meet the requirements of the revised regulation and newly drafted directive, while providing fairness and recognition of school board executive leadership.

The resulting provincial Executive Compensation Framework template was completed and shared with all 72 of Ontario’s publicly funded school boards. The Framework is to be used in the development of local executive compensation plans, as required by legislation.

Together in Faith Campaign

OCSTA’s Together in Faith campaign to deepen engagement among Ontario’s publicly funded Catholic school supporters launched a number of new initiatives in the fall that include:

- A campaign sign-up promotion and contest focused on students –this will happen in November and is being coordinated with student trustees and student council presidents at Catholic high schools across the province.
- A special recognition/gift for all Catholic education supporters – “Together in Faith” school and liturgical calendars are automatically provided to all new subscribers to the campaign.
- Unique Together in Faith web advertising banners have been designed for use by individual Catholic schools on their local websites
- Full colour post cards featuring students and teachers from CDSBs and containing contact and social media information, are being distributed via provincial conferences and Catholic education networks. Catholic school boards are encouraged to download the print-ready post cards and other marketing materials from the following URL:

http://www.togetherinfaith.ca/communications_material

OCSTA Short-Video Contest for Students

OCSTA is once again hosting a short-video contest for students in grades 4-12 at CDSB schools across the province. This year’s contest theme is “Stewards of Creation.” Students have been invited to create 2-minute videos that demonstrate how their actions demonstrate their care for the environment/life as “Stewards of Creation.”

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l'éducation catholique en Ontario.

En ce qui a trait aux prochaines étapes, une ébauche du document a été remise à la directrice de l'OPÉCO pour commentaires. Une fois retourné, le document sera partagé avec les conseils membres de l'AFOCSC pour commentaires et validation. Il est souhaité que la publication du profil soit prête pour distribution auprès des contribuables catholiques de langue française pour l'été 2018, juste avant la fin des mises en candidature pour les prochaines élections scolaires, prévues pour l'automne prochain.

Vitalité de la francophonie : Centre Jules-Léger

Avant la fin de la dernière année scolaire, la division de l'éducation en langue française du ministère de l'Éducation nous a informés qu'un projet de loi mentionnant que la gouvernance du Centre Jules-Léger sera assurée par et pour les francophones. Celui-ci sera déposé dans cette présente session de travail devant l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario afin que cette gouvernance soit transférée aux francophones de la province avant les prochaines élections générales prévues au mois de juin prochain. Souvenons-nous que l'AFOCSC avait préparé un mémoire conjoint avec nos collègues du système public l'hiver dernier, mémoire qui a fait une série de recommandations dont quelques-unes ont été retenues par le ministère. L'AFOCSC attend avec impatience de prendre connaissance de ce projet de loi afin de l'étudier et de comprendre les enjeux pour la communauté catholique de langue française. Il est prévu que l'AFOCSC fera une présentation devant le comité législatif qui fera l'étude de ce projet de loi avant la troisième lecture en chambre afin de faire part à ce comité de nos recommandations.

Catholicité : Comité d'orientation de l'éducation catholique (COREC)

Depuis de nombreuses années, l'AFOCSC est partenaire important à ce comité de travail qui voit à l'éducation catholique en langue française. Les autres partenaires sont le Conseil ontarien des directions de l'éducation catholique (CODEC), l'Assemblée des évêques catholiques de l'Ontario (AÉCO), représentée par l'Office provincial de l'éducation de la foi catholique de l'Ontario (OPÉCO), l'Association des gestionnaires de l'éducation franco-ontarienne (AGÉFO) et l'Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO).

Lors de la première réunion, le comité a été avisé que la nouvelle présidente de ce comité est Lucie Allaire, directrice de l'éducation au Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boréales. De plus, les dates de rencontre suivantes ont été retenues par le comité :

- 10 octobre 2017
- 6 février 2018
- 8 mai 2018

Lors de la prochaine réunion, les partenaires discuteront du plan de travail à accomplir pendant cette année scolaire.

Capacité organisationnelle: Concours pour l'embauche d'une nouvelle adjointe de direction

Au mois de mai dernier, un concours pour l'embauche d'une nouvelle adjointe de direction a été lancé afin de trouver la successeuse à Marguerite Patrick-Tranchau, poste qu'elle a occupé depuis dix-neuf ans. Marguerite a soumis sa lettre de démission parce qu'elle souhaitait prendre sa retraite en avril dernier avec une date de départ à la retraite prévue à la fin du mois d'août. Plus d'une vingtaine de personnes ont soumis leur candidature au poste et quatre personnes ont été retenues pour une entrevue. Les candidates au poste ont été invitées à se rendre au bureau de l'AFOCSC afin de compléter des exercices et de passer une entrevue orale le 19 juin dernier. Ayant complété cette activité, aucune candidate n'a été retenue.

Suite à la fermeture du concours, un curriculum vitae a été acheminé par une candidate potentielle en début juillet. Ayant fait certaines vérifications, la direction générale est entrée en communication avec cette personne et une entrevue téléphonique a eu lieu. Suite à cette entrevue, la candidate a été invitée à se présenter au bureau de l'AFOCSC afin de compléter des exercices écrits. La candidate invitée a complété les exercices avec succès et donc, la direction générale a communiqué avec les références fournies par la candidate afin de compléter une vérification diligente. Une fois cette étape complétée, l'AFOCSC a offert un contrat d'embauche à cette personne. C'est avec plaisir que l'AFOCSC accueille Johanne Polycarpe à titre de nouvelle adjointe de direction. Ses expériences professionnelles ont été communiquées dans notre édition du mois de septembre de La Source. Johanne a commencé ses nouvelles fonctions le 11 septembre dernier. Bienvenue Johanne!

Cadre de rémunération des cadres supérieurs

Pendant l'été 2017, l'AFOCSC a participé à de nombreuses réunions pour discuter, élaborer et mettre en œuvre un nouveau régime de rémunération des cadres supérieurs. Vu que le système d'éducation fait partie du secteur parapublic, la rémunération des cadres supérieurs fut gelée avec l'adoption de plusieurs lois et règlements depuis presque une décennie.

Travaillant avec la firme Mercer Consulting, le comité de direction, composé des présidences et directions générales des organismes représentants les conseillères et conseillers scolaires ainsi que des représentants provenant des groupes d'employés affectés par ce gel salarial, se réunit depuis décembre 2016 pour élaborer un nouveau régime de rémunération. Celui-ci a été adopté officiellement par le Conseil du trésor de l'Ontario et par le ministère de l'Éducation. Les conseils scolaires avaient jusqu'au 29 septembre 2017, afin de soumettre leur nouveau régime salarial au ministère de l'Éducation pour approbation.

En cours de route, il a été évident que le Conseil du trésor et le ministère de l'Éducation voulaient

encore restreindre davantage la rémunération des cadres supérieurs en raison des pressions politiques qui existent actuellement. Malgré que le plan provincial ait été adopté, selon le gouvernement de l'Ontario, les hausses salariales prévues par ce nouveau régime étaient trop élevées et donc, le gouvernement a mis en place des mesures de contrôle. Selon l'AFOCSC et ses partenaires, ces mesures ne respectent pas la légitimité et l'indépendance des conseils scolaires en tant qu'employeur.

L'AFOCSC félicite ses conseils membres pour avoir soumis leur nouveau plan au ministère de l'Éducation. Nous verrons comment le ministère de l'Éducation réagira à celui-ci. Nous continuerons à suivre ce dossier de très près.

AFOCSC

Loyalty: Profile of the Catholic school counselor

During the summer, a profile for the Catholic school counselor was completed. This is in addition to the profile of the Catholic student, the profile of the staff of the French Catholic schools and the profile of the French Catholic schools. The profile of the French Catholic School Counselor is an aspirational document, meaning that it describes the essential characteristics desired, so that an elected official can fulfill his or her role and responsibilities. The profile describes eleven essential elements:

- To observe the faith;
- Recognize the added value and history of Catholic education in French;
- Promote a quality Catholic French-language education;
- Articulate the mission and vision of the school board;
- Actively participate in an ethical governance based on the foundations of the Catholic Church;
- Ensure the appointment of an Education Director and support him in the performance of his duties;
- Ensure an effective and efficient organizational structure respecting the mission and vision of the French-language Catholic Council
- Ensure that the board's human and financial resources are deployed for the students' success;
- Establish a supportive environment that supports school communities;
- Monitor student success;
- Create and foster partnerships between the school, the parish and families.

In addition to desired characteristics, you will find a section on the legal criteria for becoming an election candidate. Finally, at the end of the annexed document you will find the history of important dates for Catholic education in Ontario.

With respect to the next steps, a draft docu-

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ment was provided to the OPECO Director for comments. Once returned, the document will be shared with AFOCSC members for comments and validation. It is hoped that the publication of the profile will be ready for distribution to French-speaking Catholic taxpayers for the summer of 2018, just before the end of the nominations for the next school elections, scheduled for next fall.

Vitality of the Francophonie: Centre Jules-Léger

Before the end of the last school year, the French Language Education Division of the Department of Education informed us that a bill will mention that the governance of the Center Jules-Léger will be provided by and for Francophones. It will be tabled in this working session before the Ontario Legislature to transfer this governance to Francophones in the province before the next general election scheduled for next June. It is to be remembered that the AFOCSC had prepared a joint brief with our colleagues from the public system last winter, which made a series of recommendations, some of which were retained by the department. AFOCSC is looking forward to hearing this bill in order to study it and understand the issues for the French-speaking Catholic community. It is expected that the AFOCSC will make a presentation to the Legislative Committee which will study this bill before the third reading in the chamber in order to inform this committee of our recommendations.

Catholicity: Comité d'orientation de l'éducation catholique (COREC) (Catholic education steering committee)

For many years, AFOCSC has been an important partner in this working committee that sees Catholic education in the French language. The other partners are the Ontario Council of Catholic Education Departments (CODEC), the Ontario Assembly of Catholic Bishops (OCEA), represented by the Provincial Office of Education for the Catholic Faith of Ontario (OPÉCO), the Association of Managers of Franco-Ontarian Education (AGÉFO) and the Association of Principals and Vice-Principals of Franco-Ontarian Schools (ADFO).

At the first meeting, the committee was informed that the new chair of this committee is Lucie Allaire, director of education of the Catholic District School board of the Aurores Boréales. In addition, the following meeting

dates were selected by the committee:

- October 10, 2017
- February 6, 2018
- May 8, 2018

At the next meeting, the partners will discuss the work plan for this school year.

Organizational capacity: Competition for the hiring of a new executive assistant

Last May, a competition for the hiring of a new Executive Assistant was launched to find the successor to Marguerite Patrick-Tranchau, a post she has held for nineteen years. Marguerite submitted her letter of resignation because she wanted to retire last April with a scheduled retirement date at the end of August. More than 20 people applied for the job and four people were selected for an interview. Candidates for the position were invited to visit the AFOCSC office to complete exercises and to hold an oral interview on June 19. Having completed this activity, no candidate was selected.

Following the closing of the competition, a curriculum vitae was sent by a potential candidate in early July. Having done certain checks, the branch contacted this person and a telephone interview took place. Following this interview, the candidate was invited to attend the AFOCSC office to complete written testing. The successful candidate completed the test successfully and therefore, the senior management communicated with the references provided by the candidate to complete proper verification. Once this step was completed, the AFOCSC extended an employment contract to this person. It is with pleasure that AFOCSC welcomes Johanne Polycarpe as the new Executive Assistant. Her professional experience has been communicated in our September edition of *La Source*. Johanne began her new duties on September 11. Welcome, Johanne!

Executive Compensation Framework

During the summer of 2017, the AFOCSC participated in numerous meetings to discuss, develop and implement a new executive compensation plan. Since the education system is part of the broader public sector, executive compensation has been frozen with the passage of several laws and regulations for almost a decade.

Working with the firm Mercer Consulting, the Executive committee, made up of the Presidencies and branches of the trustee rep-

resentative organizations and representatives from the groups of employees affected by this wage freeze, has been meeting since December 2016 to develop a new compensation plan. It has been formally adopted by the Ontario Treasury Board and the Department of Education. The school boards had until September 29, 2017 to submit their new salary plan to the Ministry of Education for approval.

Along the way, it became obvious that the Treasury Board and the Department of Education wanted to further restrict executive compensation because of the political pressures that currently exist. Although the provincial plan was adopted, according to the Ontario government, the wage increases under the new plan were too high and the government put in place controls. According to AFOCSC and its partners, these measures do not respect the legitimacy and independence of school boards as employers.

AFOCSC congratulates its member councils for submitting their new plan to the Ministry of Education. We will see how the Department of Education responds to this one. We will continue to follow this issue very closely.

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Enrollment and Outreach

The 2017-18 enrolment figures for Schools of the Atlantic Region are holding firm. With registration fees largely unchanged, parents continue to see the Catholic schools as a most reasonable alternative to the public system.

All Boards are well into their plans for this year's initiatives for raising bursary funds. Without those programs, including that of the CCSTA, many students would not be able to attend a Catholic school. Once again, the Boards are most thankful for the CCSTA bursary awards received for this current school year; and schools are largely expected to participate in this year's Toonies campaign.

Upcoming Dates:

- *Higgins Award Nomination Deadline: January 15, 2018* •
- *CCSTA Board Meeting: February 8, 2018* •
- *Toonies Contest Design Deadline: February 28, 2018* •
- *2018 CCSTA AGM/Convention: June 7-9, 2018, Kelowna, BC* •
- *2019 AGM/Convention: May 30-June 1, 2019, Canmore, AB* •
- *2020 AGM/Convention Accepting host applications* •

Visit the CCSTA website at www.ccsta.ca for more information.

Chaplain's Corner

Connecting with the Bishops: CCSTA Meets with ECEC

The Episcopal Commission for Evangelization and Catechesis (ECEC) is a committee of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. As a group, they come together to:

- Assist the members of the Conference in the areas of evangelization and catechesis.
- Participate in reflection and dialogue on evangelization within the context of the Canadian Catholic Church.
- Give specific attention to the following priorities: catechesis for adults, children, and youth within parishes and families.
- Provide for the formation of those involved in catechesis for adults, children, and youth within parishes and families.
- Identify changes, needs, and opportunities in the Church and society that affect evangelization and catechesis.
- Produce the On Good Soil Website

Since they focus on family, youth and children, the CCSTA wanted to connect with the ECEC and form a closer relationship.

As such, CCSTA Executive Director Julian Hanlon met with the ECEC at the CCCB office in November. The committee includes: Archbishop Currie, Chair, St. John's Most Rev. Bayda, Ukrainian Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon Most Rev. Vila, Whitehorse Most Rev. Dabrowski, London Most Rev. McGrattan, Calgary Bishop McGrattan expressed his regrets as he had another meeting at the same time.

Julian provided an overview of CCSTA and how CCSTA plays a key role in coordinating with our provincial partners.

"I mentioned our lobbying efforts with Federal MPs, our involvement in the Trinity Western and Theodore cases, our Toonies Campaign, and the Higgins Award," says Julian, adding there were many questions regarding Catholic Education, including an understanding of key issues and the differences between provinces. I explained the Trinity Western Case and Theodore Case as they weren't aware of the details.

"All in all, it was a good meeting. Archbishop Currie thanked me on behalf of the group and indicated he found it very informative," says Julian.

L'ACCEC rencontre l'ECEC

La Commission épiscopale pour l'évangélisation et la catéchèse (ECEC) est un comité du secteur anglais de la Conférence des évêques catholiques du Canada. Son rôle est de :

- Aider les membres de la Conférence dans les domaines de l'évangélisation et de la catéchèse.
- Participer à la réflexion et au dialogue sur l'évangélisation dans le contexte de l'Église catholique au Canada.
- Accorder une attention particulière aux priorités suivantes : la catéchèse pour les adultes, les enfants, et les jeunes dans les paroisses et les familles.
- Fournir de la formation aux personnes impliquées dans la catéchèse pour les adultes, les enfants, et les jeunes dans les paroisses et les familles.
- Identifier les changements, les besoins et les opportunités dans l'Église et la société qui touchent l'évangélisation et la catéchèse.
- Publier le site web On Good Soil (www.ongoodsoil.ca)

Puisque cette commission s'intéresse à la famille, aux jeunes et aux enfants, l'ACCEC a voulu les joindre pour créer des liens plus serrés.

Ainsi, le directeur général de l'ACCEC, Julian Hanlon, a rencontré les

membres de la commission au bureau de la CECC en novembre. Les membres du comité sont : Mgr l'archevêque Currie, président, de St. John's; S. E. Mgr Bayda, évêque éparchial ukrainien de Saskatoon; S. E. Mgr Vila, de Whitehorse; S. E. Mgr Dabrowski, de London; S. E. Mgr McGrattan, de Calgary. Ce dernier était absent à cause d'une autre obligation.

Julian a présenté un sommaire des activités de l'ACCEC, et a expliqué comment l'ACCEC joue un rôle primordial de coordination avec les partenaires provinciaux.

« J'ai parlé de nos efforts de lobbying auprès des députés fédéraux, de notre implication dans les affaires Theodore et Trinity Western, de notre campagne Toonies for Tuition et du prix Higgins, » dit Julian, ajoutant qu'il a répondu à plusieurs questions sur l'éducation catholique, et fourni des éclaircissements au sujet de l'aspect clé de la disparité entre les provinces.

« J'ai aussi fait une mise au point sur les affaires Theodore et Trinity Western pour les mettre au fait de certains détails. En somme, ce fut une rencontre productive. Mgr Currie m'a remercié au nom du groupe et a souligné qu'il avait trouvé la réunion très informative, » dit Julian.

