

Board of Directors'

Highlights

JUNE 2011

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The following is a summary of the significant initiatives of CCSTA during the past several months. For more detailed information, please see the most recent CCSTA newsletter - <http://www.ccsta.ca/media.php?mid=355>.

Toonies For Tuition Campaign

The annual campaign to raise funds to assist parents with tuition costs to send their Children to Catholic schools in provinces with no or partial funding saw an increase of \$15,000 in contributions this year. The increase is directly attributable to a challenge issued by Saskatchewan trustees to the other funded provinces to raise the most money for the campaign based on FTE by province and by individual school boards/districts. Approximately \$30,000 was allocated across

Canada to assist parents; however, requests for assistance totalled over \$92,000. CCSTA will be considering further ways to help raise the profits of the Toonies for Tuition campaign and involve all school boards/districts more fully in this endeavour. Please see the attached [Endowment Fund Report](#) for further information.



CCSTA AGM/Convention, June 2-4, 2011 - Regina,

A very successful AGM/Convention took place in Regina, SK. Attendance exceeded expectations and the members experienced a stimulating program in the context of warm western hospitality. Please see the attached "[Program at A Glance](#)" for more information on this convention.

Future AGM/Conventions are scheduled as follows:

June 7-9, 2012 - Sudbury, ON
June 6-8, 2013 - Winnipeg, MB
June 5-7, 2014 - Kingston, ON



Thank you to the Regina Catholic Schools for a job well done!



Intervener at the Supreme Court

The Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association, representing a coalition of our members across Canada, was granted intervener status, along with seven other groups, in a case that was argued before the Supreme Court on May 18, 2011. The respondents in this case are the Quebec school board involved and the Attorney General of Quebec.

The case involves a conflict between parental rights and duties respecting the custody, supervision and education of children with the states interest in education itself. The case raises in a foundational way the role of parents in relation to state mandated curriculum.

In this situation, the Quebec government has implemented a compulsory Ethics, Religion and Culture (ERC) program in all elementary and secondary public and private schools. There are provisions for parents to request from the school board an exemption for their children from this program.

On religious grounds, over 2,500 Catholic and other parents have requested this exemption from the ERC because they feel the program "offends their conscience and religion". The school boards where these children attend school have refused to accommodate the parents request for their children to be exempt from the ERC. Following an appeal process at lower courts, the matter was deemed sufficiently important to be heard by our highest court of the land.

The case was argued under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and will affect all of Canada, irrespective of differ-

ing arrangements province by province and between public and denominational education.

Funding partners with CCSTA in this case are the Saskatchewan, Alberta and Ontario (English and French) trustees' associations. Representatives from these provinces and CCSTA attended the Supreme Court proceeding in Ottawa to hear first-hand the arguments in defense of parental rights put forward by our lawyer, Iain Benson, a Senior Associate Counsel from the firm Miller Thomson in Toronto.

CCSTA's participation in the case is consistent with our mission to "promote and protect the right to Catholic Education in Canada" and we are very pleased with the solidarity and financial support of the funded provinces in helping us bring this case forward.

A decision of the Court is expected sometime in the in the next two to six months.



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



Visit the [CCSTA website](#) to add your e-mail address to our database.

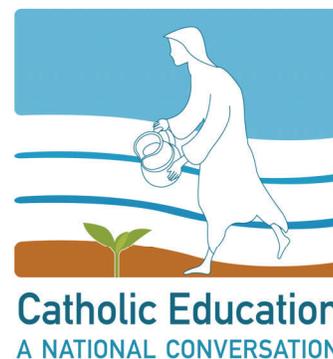
Catholic Education: A National Conversation

September 22-24, 2011

The second CCSTA National Conversation Conference will take place in Ottawa on September 22-24, 2011.

An exciting line-up of presenters has been confirmed to stimulate the conversation as outlined in the attached “[Conference at a Glance](#)” document. Additional information and registration is available at the following website link:

http://www.alcddb.on.ca/ccsta_conference2011/english/index.html



National Lobbying Efforts



Building on the success of the last two years, CCSTA plans to once again hold this fall reception for Senators, MP's and staff in Ottawa.

The reception provides an opportunity to provide politicians information about the history, importance and contributions of Catholic education to the social fabric of Canada.

The reception also provides CCSTA with the opportunity to thank our elected representatives for their support and to inform them of the presence of CCSTA as a national voice for Catholic education.

Vivifiés par la parole de Dieu et notre tradition, nous veillons à promouvoir et à protéger le droit à l'éducation catholique au Canada. Nous parlons d'une même voix.

Website / Communications

CCSTA has expanded our database and is ready to share the importance of Catholic education to a wider audience across Canada. Our expanded web-based communication model is being developed to get the “good news” in Catholic education spread across Canada. Please visit the CCSTA website at www.ccsta.ca.

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