

Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association

Association canadienne des commissaires d'écoles catholiques

CCSTA



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CCSTA NEWSLETTER/ COMMUNIQUÉ DE L'ACCEC

www.ccsta.ca

Walk in the Light: Yellowknife ready to host 2016 CCSTA AGM & Convention



The Yellowknife Catholic School Board of Trustees is excited to welcome 2016 CCSTA AGM delegates to the land of the midnight sun which awaits on the northern shores of Great Slave Lake in Yellowknife, a small but diverse city famous for its spectacular wilderness. Sitting on the edge of the Arctic Circle, the city which enjoys summer days with nearly 24 hours of sunlight, and dark winter skies lit up by aurora borealis inspired the Convention theme, "Walk in the Light".

Yellowknife Catholic Schools has been providing quality education to northern students for over 60 years. It is the only faith-based district in the Northwest Territories. Its students are blessed to have the freedom to grow in all aspects, including spiritually. The district consists of three schools that house approximately 1,300 students and the Kimberlite Career and Technical Centre.

The Convention is set to take place June 9-11, 2016. The main AGM hotel is The Explorer Hotel,

however guestroom blocks have also been set up at the nearby Days Inn & Suites and the Yellowknife Inn. All scheduled meals will be held at the Explorer Hotel with the presentations, business sessions and refreshment breaks at Ecole St. Patrick School. The school is a short walk from the hotels.

Be prepared to sit back and enjoy listening to a line up of all Canadian speakers which include Sr. Helena Burns, Archbishop Murray Chatlain, Bishop Denis Croteau, Karen Doucet, Kevin Feehan, Dr. Mona Lee Feehan, Archbishop Mark Hagemoen, Dianne Lafferty and Fr. Remi Lessard. The Committee has scheduled a third break out session in this year's program. Youth and social media, the missionary life in the north, and emerging issues in Catholic education are some of the session topics. The keynote speakers are Archbishop Chatlain and Sr. Helena Burns. The Archbishop will explore some physical and spiritual darkness that prepares us for the light, while

Sr. Helena will speak on the foundations of faith and film.

As an alternative to an organized pre-convention program, the Committee will be suggesting activities that delegates may want to take in prior to the Convention. Delegates will make their own arrangements. Some options include evening golf, hiking Cameron Falls and taking in a city tour. Information about booking activities will be available on the convention website.

The planned Spousal/Companion tour includes a bus tour of the city with stops at the Northern Visitor's Centre, Museum, Legislative Assembly, Pilot's Monument and more. Lunch at the Museum Cafe will be included. Delegates will be treated to a "A Taste of the North" on Friday evening. This event will feature a northern dining experience and cultural entertainment.

Registration is now open: <http://www.ccsta.ca/en/events-en/agm>.

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CCSTA/ACCEC President
Mike St. Amand

The Reason for the Season

Advent is a time of year that generates varying flavours to the season. As we light the first candle in anticipation of Christ's birth, many items automatically get added to our holiday to-do list. We have to buy a Christmas tree; we have to go shopping for presents; we have to attend the annual work Christmas party, and so on. The expectation of a busy holiday season has been engrained in our lifestyle, and it's easy to forget the original reason for the season – to welcome Jesus into our lives.

But, then, for me, something special usually happens on Christmas Eve. We attend mass, slow down, and can see the light that Jesus brings into our – and our children's – eyes. We take time to reflect on all the good that has happened throughout Advent, including charity work, community togetherness and taking the time to re-connect with our family, God, and ourselves.

While our 'holiday season' may be hectic, we return to our roots and truly embody Christ's message.

The same could be said when it comes to Catholic education in Canada. We know the reason why we have it, yet that focus can sometimes become blurry. Whether it's through policy, politics, or secularism, there can be distractions that lead us away from our original intention, which is to provide children and their families the opportunity to live out Jesus' message in our school hallways.

But – similarly to when we attend that Christmas Eve mass – we're drawn back to the original purpose, and can see all the good that's being done in Catholic education across Canada; I've witnessed that focus this past autumn through the stories and experiences we've shared through our CCSTA connections. Whether it's about students raising money for charities, trustees mentoring their peers, or organizations providing support to one another across the country, our original focus on Catholic education lives out in those school hallways and board rooms each and every day.

Ultimately, these kinds of acts demonstrate why we do what we do as trustees, educators, parents, and most importantly, as Catholics.

Have a blessed Christmas, and all the best in the New Year.

Mike St. Amand
President, CCSTA

Message de la présidente

Le pourquoi de cette saison

L'Avent est le temps de l'année qui nous propose des saveurs variées. Au moment où on allume le premier cierge dans l'attente de la naissance du Christ, plusieurs choses s'ajoutent automatiquement à notre liste de choses à faire : acheter un arbre de Noël, compléter la liste de cadeaux, planifier la réception de Noël au travail, etc. Notre style de vie nous impose une période des Fêtes occupée et il est facile d'oublier la vraie raison d'être de cette saison, accueillir Jésus dans nos vies.

Ensuite, pour moi, la veille de Noël apporte quelque chose de particulier. On assiste à la messe, tout ralentit et on peut voir la lumière que Jésus met dans nos yeux – et ceux de nos enfants. On prend le temps de réfléchir à ce qui est arrivé de bon pendant l'Avent, incluant les œuvres de bienfaisance, l'unité dans la communauté et nous nous retrouvons avec notre famille, Dieu, et nous-mêmes.

Bien que la période « des Fêtes » soit mouvementée, elle nous permet de retourner à nos racines et d'accueillir le message du Christ.

On pourrait en dire autant de l'éducation catholique au Canada. Nous savons pourquoi elle existe, mais on peut parfois perdre le cap. Les règlements, la politique et la sécularisation peuvent nous détourner de notre intention originale, celle d'offrir aux enfants et à leurs familles la possibilité de vivre le message de Jésus dans les couloirs de nos écoles. Cependant, comme quand nous assistons à la messe de minuit, nous sommes ramenés à notre mission originale et nous voyons le bien que l'éducation catholique apporte au Canada. J'ai personnellement été témoin de ce phénomène l'automne dernier, en partageant certaines expériences et différents scénarios avec nos partenaires de l'ACCEC. Que ce soit au sujet d'élèves qui amassent des fonds pour une œuvre de bienfaisance, des conseillers scolaires qui offrent leur aide à leurs collègues ou des organisations qui s'entraident d'un bout à l'autre du pays, on constate que notre objectif en éducation catholique se manifeste à chaque jour dans les couloirs des écoles et dans les salles de conseil.

Ce sont à la fin ces actes qui font foi ce que nous sommes en tant que conseillers scolaires, éducateurs, parents et surtout en tant que catholiques.

Je vous offre mes meilleurs vœux pour un joyeux Noël et une nouvelle année remplie de bonheur.

Mike St. Amand
Président de l'ACCEC

Walk in the Light: Yellowknife accueille le congrès AGA 2016

C'est la fébrilité au conseil d'administration du Yellowknife Catholic School Board qui s'apprête à recevoir les délégués du congrès/AGA 2016 au pays du soleil de minuit, sur les berges du Grand lac des Esclaves. Yellowknife est une petite localité aux intérêts multiples, célèbre pour ses spectaculaires paysages naturels. Située aux abords du cercle arctique, cette ville est baignée de soleil pendant près de 24 heures en été, et ses nuits d'hiver s'illuminent d'aurores boréales. C'est ce qui a inspiré le thème du congrès, « Marchez dans la lumière ».

Les écoles catholiques de Yellowknife offrent une éducation de qualité depuis plus de soixante ans. Il s'agit du seul district scolaire confessionnel dans les Territoires-du-Nord-Ouest. Les élèves qui le fréquentent peuvent y grandir dans tous les aspects, incluant la composante spirituelle. Le district se compose de trois écoles accueillant environ 1 300 élèves et du Kimberlite Career and Technical Centre.

Le congrès aura lieu du 9 au 11 juin 2016.

L'hôtel principal du congrès est The Explorer Hotel, mais nous avons réservé des installations à deux hôtels situés à proximité, le Days Inn & Suites et le Yellowknife Inn. Tous les repas seront servis à l'Explorer, tandis que les ateliers, les rencontres et les pauses auront lieu à l'école St. Patrick, à quelques pas seulement des hôtels.

Nous vous offrons un groupe d'excellents conférenciers canadiens, dont la sœur Helena Burns, Mgr l'archevêque Murray Chatlain, Mgr Denis Croteau, Karen Doucet, Kevin Feehan, la Dr Mona Lee Feehan, Mgr l'archevêque Mark Hagemoan, Diane Lafferty et le frère Rémi Lessard. Cette année, le comité a prévu une troisième session à l'horaire. Parmi les thèmes offerts, on retrouve : les jeunes et les médias sociaux, le missionariat dans le nord et les questions de l'heure en éducation catholique.

Il y aura deux conférenciers principaux. Mgr Chatlain discutera de la noirceur physique et spirituelle qui nous prédisposent à recevoir la lumière,

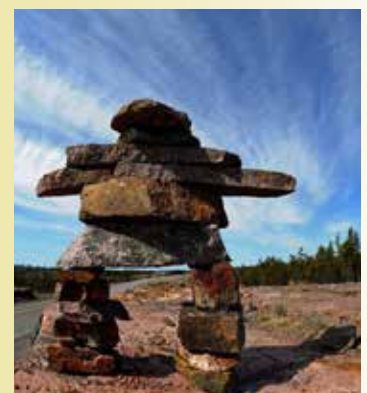
et la sœur Helena Burns parlera des bases de la foi dans le cinéma.

Au lieu d'un programme pré-congrès organisé, le comité vous propose des activités libres que chacun pourra planifier à sa guise. Parmi celles-ci, on retrouve le golf de soirée, une randonnée pédestre à Cameron Falls et une visite de la ville. Les détails pour réserver ces activités sont affichés au site web du congrès.

Pour ceux qui accompagnent les délégués, nous proposons une visite guidée de la ville en autobus avec arrêts au centre des visiteurs (Northern Visitor's Centre), au musée, à l'Assemblée législative, à Pilot's Monument et plus. Le lunch au musée est compris.

Le vendredi soir, les participants feront l'expérience des « saveurs du nord ». Il s'agira d'un souper typiquement nordique et d'un spectacle à saveur culturelle.

Inscription est maintenant ouverte: <http://www.ccsta.ca/en/events-en/agm>.





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.

2015-2016

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2015-2016

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

From the Office Desk...

I find it hard to believe that the beginning of December has arrived. It seems like just yesterday that I was beginning my term as Executive Director of this great organization. It has been a busy, but rewarding, fall. One of the items we have been working on, and hope to wrap up shortly, is our incorporation into the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act (CNCA). The original intent was to incorporate into the CNCA and move to the Ontario Not-for-profit Corporations Act (ONCA), as it was a better fit with our current governance model. The Ontario government recently announced a minimum two year delay in implementation of the ONCA, so the board decided that we would continue with the CNCA. The main challenge is how members of the CCSTA board are elected. We have worked out a mechanism that will continue to allow the provincial associations to appoint their desired representative, but this representative will have to be voted on by all members of the Board of Directors. Information and details have been sent to all provincial associations.

This past October, I had the pleasure of attending the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association AGM/Convention in Swift Current. It was an excellent conference with good speakers and highlighted the fact that Catholic education is alive and well in Saskatchewan. It was a great opportunity to meet many of the Catholic trustees in Saskatchewan. A very friendly and dedicated



group of individuals.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association's AGM in November, but certainly hope to do so next year. Marino Gazzola, CCSTA Vice President, represented CCSTA at the event, and reported that Alberta once again hosted an outstanding AGM.

While on the topic of AGM's, plans are well underway for our June AGM/Convention in Yellowknife. Registration will be open before the end of the year, and an email will be sent to our mailing list to let everyone know when it's time to register. I recently met with all the host boards for our 2017 AGM in Niagara, and it is also promising to be an excellent conference. At the last Board of Directors' meeting, an application from the Catholic Independent Schools Committee of British Columbia to host the 2018 AGM in Kelowna was approved.

A key focus for the year is to try to improve communications with our members and partners. To that end, we have made changes to our website and are now on Twitter @CCSTAconnects. Please take a moment to check out our twitter account.

In closing, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and all the best in the New Year.

Julian Hanlon
Executive Director, CCSTA

Nouvelles du bureau...

Il est difficile de croire que décembre soit déjà là. Il me semble qu'hier encore débutait mon mandat de directeur général de cette excellente organisation. Ce fut un automne occupé, mais productif. L'un des dossiers qui nous a occupés et que nous estimons pouvoir clore bientôt, est celui de notre incorporation à la Loi canadienne sur les organisations à but non lucratif (LCOBNL). Notre intention première était dans un premier lieu de se conformer à la LCOBNL pour ensuite migrer vers la Loi sur les organisations sans but lucratif de l'Ontario (LOSBL), qui correspond mieux à notre système actuel de gouvernance. Le Gouvernement de l'Ontario vient cependant d'annoncer un délai d'au moins deux ans avant la mise en oeuvre de la LOSBL, alors le conseil a décidé que nous poursuivrions au sein de la LCOBNL. Le défi principal réside dans la façon dont les membres du conseil d'administration de l'ACCEC sont élus. Nous avons élaboré un mécanisme qui continuera de permettre aux associations provinciales de nommer le candidat qu'elles désirent, mais cette représentation devra être soumise au vote du conseil d'administration. Les détails pertinents ont déjà été signifiés aux organisations provinciales.

En octobre dernier, j'ai eu le plaisir d'assister au congrès/AGA de la Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association, à Swift Current. Ce fut un excellent congrès, ponctué de bons conférenciers, et qui a démontré que l'éducation catholique est bien vivante en Saskatchewan. Ça m'a permis de rencontrer plusieurs des conseillers scolaires catholiques de la province, un groupe de personnes vraiment sympathiques et dévouées.

Malheureusement, je n'ai pas pu participer au congrès/AGA de l'Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association en novembre, mais j'ai la ferme intention d'y être l'an prochain. Marino Gazzola, vice-président de l'ACCEC, représentait l'association à cet événement, et il nous a confirmé que le congrès a connu un succès retentissant.

Toujours concernant les congrès, les préparatifs de notre congrès/AGA de juin à Yellowknife avancent toujours. L'inscription sera ouverte avant la fin décembre, et un courriel parviendra à tous ceux faisant partie de notre liste d'envoi pour les en avertir. J'ai aussi récemment rencontré les représentants du conseil hôte de l'AGA 2017 à Niagara, et là encore le congrès semble très prometteur. Enfin, lors de la plus récente rencontre du conseil d'administration, la candidature du Catholic Independent Schools Committee de la Colombie-Britannique pour accueillir le congrès à Kelowna en 2018 a été acceptée.

L'un des objectifs principaux pour cette année est d'améliorer les communications avec nos membres et nos partenaires. À cet effet, nous avons effectué des modifications à notre site web et possédons désormais un compte Twitter, @CCSTAconnects. Je vous invite à y jeter un coup d'œil.

Pour finir, je saisis cette occasion pour vous offrir mes meilleurs vœux pour un Noël plein de joie et une nouvelle année remplie de bonheur.

Julian Hanlon
Directeur général, ACCEC

CCSTA Changes Endowment Fund Application Guidelines

A school principal plays many roles in their work. They lead, connect and facilitate much of the school's happenings, and are in-the-know with each staff member, parent and student.

Their connectedness to the school community helped shift the CCSTA's approach to assisting Catholic school tuition fees through its Endowment Fund.

In the past, families seeking tuition assistance would have to individually apply for funding from the CCSTA Endowment Fund.

But it will now be submitted by the school's principal.

The change occurred after the CCSTA Endowment Fund committee met earlier this year and its members agreed to change the application criteria so that requests come directly from the principal, with no need for families to write letters directly.

"Each province's tuition costs vary, and we agreed it was difficult for us to determine the best candidates," explains CCSTA Executive Director Julian

Hanlon. "The principals know these students and their families' situations best, and so we wanted to give the school the ability to make those decisions on who'd most benefit from the Fund."

The CCSTA Endowment Fund was established more than 10 years ago in an effort to help alleviate students in need cover school tuition costs located in provinces with partial or no funding. Since 2006, CCSTA has received 385 student requests amounting to over \$780,000. CCSTA was able to distribute \$231,800 in tuition assistance. Each year, the application deadline closes on March 31.

The principal will need to include student names in the request, and provide some detail on the need as it relates to the application criteria. Funds would then get sent directly to the schools, and the school would then determine individual student allocation.

To learn more about the Endowment Fund and the Toonies for Tuition campaign, please visit the CCSTA website at www.ccsta.ca.

L'ACCEC modifie les modalités d'accès au fonds de dotation

La direction d'une école endosse plusieurs rôles. Elle mène, guide et facilite une bonne partie des événements qui s'y déroulent, et est en relation avec chaque membre du personnel, les parents et les élèves.

Cette proximité à la communauté scolaire a été le facteur déterminant qui a décidé l'ACCEC à changer les modalités d'accès à l'aide financière offerte par son fonds de dotation.

Par le passé, les familles désirant une aide financière devaient elles-mêmes faire demande auprès du fonds de dotation de l'ACCEC.

Désormais, cette demande devra être soumise par le directeur ou la directrice de l'école.

Cette décision fait suite à la rencontre du comité du fonds de dotation, plus tôt cette année, au cours de laquelle les membres se sont mis d'accord pour que la demande provienne du directeur ou de la directrice, sans que les parents aient eux-mêmes à écrire de lettre.

« Les directeurs et les directrices savent quelles familles sont dans le plus grand besoin, et il arrive que ces familles ne font même pas demande, » explique Julian Hanlon, directeur général de l'ACCEC. « Les frais d'inscription varient

d'une province à l'autre et c'était difficile pour nous de choisir les candidats les plus méritants. Ce sont les directions qui connaissent le mieux la situation des familles, et nous voulons permettre aux écoles de déterminer qui bénéficierait le plus d'une aide. »

Le fonds de dotation de l'ACCEC a été créé il y a plus de dix ans pour venir en aide aux familles qui peinent à défrayer l'inscription à l'école catholique dans les provinces où les subventions font défaut. Depuis 2006, l'ACCEC a reçu 385 demandes d'aide financière se chiffrant à 780 000\$. L'ACCEC a été en mesure de distribuer 231 000\$ en réponse à ces demandes. La date finale pour faire parvenir une demande est à chaque année le 31 mars et les critères d'admissibilité demeurent les mêmes.

À partir de maintenant, la directrice ou le directeur de l'école devra inclure les noms des élèves à la demande et fournir quelques détails sur la nature des besoins des familles se rapportant aux critères d'admissibilité. Les fonds seront ensuite envoyés directement aux écoles qui accorderont les montants individuels.

Pour plus de détails sur le fonds de dotation, veuillez consulter notre site à l'adresse suivante: www.ccsta.ca.



CCSTA is on Twitter!

In an effort to continue to live out its vision and mission, CCSTA has delved into a new online route to help spread that message about, #CatholicEducationinCanada.

"We wanted to start using an interactive, online platform that allowed us to have more conversations with a wider audience," explains CCSTA Executive Director Julian Hanlon. "Over the past few years, we've really connected with others by sharing stories on our website as well as distributing an online newsletter and monthly emails. We're taking it another step, and have developed a short-term plan on how we want to use social media to execute our advocacy plans even further. We will be working on a long-term plan in the future as well."

CCSTA plans to use Twitter to share the stories posted to its website, as well as curate content relevant to Catholic education in Canada, and share it with others. Twitter users will also be encouraged to use the social media platform at the annual CCSTA AGM to engage in conversation about keynote speakers' messages, their experiences and connecting with one another during that time and in the future. You can follow CCSTA on Twitter @CCSTACONnect.

L'ACCEC se retrouve sur Twitter!

Pour actualiser sa mission et sa vision, l'ACCEC s'est penchée sur une nouvelle voie électronique pour disséminer son message, #CatholicEducationinCanada.

« Nous voulions une plateforme électronique qui nous permettrait de joindre un auditoire plus large, » dit Julian Hanlon, directeur général de l'ACCEC. « Depuis quelques années, nous rejoignons les gens grâce à notre site web, avec nos communiqués électroniques et nos courriels mensuels. Pour poursuivre à un autre niveau, nous avons développé une stratégie à court terme quant à l'usage que nous désirons faire des médias sociaux pour prolonger nos stratégies de sensibilisation. »

L'ACCEC veut utiliser Twitter pour partager les nouvelles affichées sur son site web, ainsi que des éléments de contenu choisis pour leur pertinence à la question de l'éducation catholique au Canada. Les abonnés à Twitter seront invités à utiliser cette plateforme lors de l'AGA de l'ACCEC pour commenter sur les messages des conférenciers, offrir leurs impressions et communiquer entre eux à ce moment et aussi dans l'avenir. Vous pouvez suivre l'ACCEC sur Twitter @CCSTACONnect.



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Donate to the
CCSTA Endowment Fund

www.ccsta.ca

Provincial Reports

British Columbia

Kamloops Diocese

The school year began with 1,204 students, which is an increase of 24 from last year. There are still students enrolling and registering with ASCEND Online. They anticipate that the final total will be approximately 1,300 students.

This past summer, a group of eight students and three chaperones travelled to the mission field in Tanzania. While there, they worked with the water project run by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. They constructed a water pumping windmill, storage tanks and a water trough for livestock in the village of Msanga. This is the eighth group of volunteers from the Kamloops Diocese to make the trip to Tanzania.

Nelson Diocese

Their enrolment is up slightly from 1,201 to 1,229 students.

St. Joseph's Elementary School in Kelowna will be undergoing a \$4.7 million renovation and addition to the current school with construction expected to begin in March of 2016.

Diocese of Victoria

Island Catholic Schools have six schools with a population of approximately 1,663 students.

This year, they are focusing on evangelization, Response to Intervention, understanding the new draft curriculum, implementing of MyEd (a new data management system), improved parish/school connections, working on Phase 2 and 3 of our Catholic Schools Plan (seismic improvements to one school and a renovation/addition to the high school).

The MyEd BC has had a rocky start as there was a privacy breach that required it to be shut down for a time.

Prince George Diocese

This year will focus on Faith Formation, Learning and Innovation and building Catholic communities.

CISPG will be working on Faith Formation of students and staff with Pastors having planned formation and prayers sessions.

In the area of Learning and Innovation the schools will be working on the BC Redesigned Curriculum that is to be fully implemented in K-9 by 2016-17.

“At the heart of the change is personalized learning which gives the students the opportunity to learn the basics while pursuing their own interests and passions. This could mean exploring nature close to the school to learn about the survival needs of plants and animals for biology, a project on the history of hockey or building of furniture in math class to learn about angles. This year we will begin a three-year process of transitioning to the new curriculum.”



Dan Moric

Excerpt from the letter from the Hon. Mike Bernier, Minister of Education.

Archdiocese of Vancouver

Strategic Plan: In October, 2013 the CISVA began an ongoing Strategic Planning process. An online survey completed by over 4,000 of our stakeholders revealed what we were doing well and what we could improve upon. This information was organized into five categories that define how our mission-driven, program effective, well-managed and responsibly governed Catholic schools will operate. A priority has been identified for each category that will guide the development of future action plans. The five Priorities are: Evangelization, Governance, Leadership, Sustainability and Vision for Learning.

Redesigned Curriculum: With the implementation of the Redesigned Curriculum, we are looking at this as a wonderful opportunity to imbue provincial curriculum with our ‘Vision for Learning’ (to guide students in the pursuit of truth, beauty and goodness in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition). Currently we are in the process of formulating Catholic Principles of Learning, which will help us to create faith-based Big Ideas and Learning Standards for each grade level subject area. In addition, we are looking at our curriculum-planning practices and asking what are the essential questions that an exemplary plan would answer?

Human Resources: With the assistance of our lawyers, we have been continuing to examine our current employee contracts along with the pertinent employment policies. Two subcommittees of our Board of Directors have merged (Policy and Personnel) to undertake this endeavour. Ongoing dialogue with teachers and principals is critical to messaging the rationale for any necessary changes.

Superintendent's Office Restructuring: As you know, Mr. Doug Lauson retired as CISVA Superintendent on June 30, 2015. Mr. Dan Moric, who officially took over Superintendent duties on July 1, 2015, joined the CISVA team in April. During this time Mr. Moric began to develop a new operational model for the CISVA with the establishment of a Leadership team consisting of six senior members of the CISVA staff: the Superintendent, three Associate Superintendents and two Directors. This model has proved to have been very insightful with Mr. Moric's unexpected heart surgery in early August. There has been some renaming of roles as well: Special Education Director Jennifer Tong is now the Director of Learning Support, Michel Gloanec, formerly titled Religious Education Consultant is now the Director of Evangelization and Catechesis and Sandra Marshall's title has changed to Associate Superintendent of Educational Services. Sandra was also appointed as Acting Superintendent during Dan's recovery period from heart surgery. With the departure of Bobbi Duncan, the CISVA office manager, Rob Mascitti joined the team to assume not only to office managerial functions but also to support the increasingly complex realm of human resources as the Human Resources Administrator.

Catholic Independent Schools Committee of BC

The Superintendents and a representative from each diocese in BC meet twice a year to work together on areas of common interest and concern. In addition, the five Bishops attended the first

meeting of the year, which was held in November. The CISCBC continues to work to meet the goals of the strategic planning document.

The Federation of Independent Schools Association – FISA

FISA is an 18-member board that meets monthly to address topics common to all independent schools in the province. The Catholic Independent Schools (CIS) group is one of the five associations within FISA. The other groups are, the Associate Member Group (AMG) 122 schools as individual entities or in small associations collectively having the same rights as an association, The Independent Schools Association (ISABC) 20 boys' girls' or coed schools some with boarding facilities, the Society of Christian Schools in BC (SCSBC) 37 schools with and evangelical orientation and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI).

This government is totally supportive of independent schools and choice for parents. Communication both ways is important to the Minister. Mr. Mike Bernier was appointed Minister of Education on July 30, 2015. He is a graduate of Catholic education as he attended St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic school.

Bill 29 - Property Tax Issue

The Act provided tax exemption for land that the building is on as well as the reasonable amount of land that the property is on to run their program (example: parking, sports fields etc.). This positive piece of legislation for independent schools was passed unanimously on September 30.

New Societies Act

The new Act received Royal Assent on May 14. Societies will have two years from the date of release to make the required changes. The release time was October, 2015.

Alberta/NWT

Advocacy/Communications

In May, we witnessed a significant change to the political makeup of the Alberta Legislature with the victory of Rachel Notley's New Democratic Party. ACSTA immediately encouraged member boards to meet with their local MLAs in order to start developing relationships with our counterpart elected officials in government. Many of the MLAs are new to government and, as a result, are only just learning or beginning to scratch the surface of the many issues facing Albertans. To that end, ACSTA developed an information sheet “About ACSTA” and “Facts about Catholic Education in Alberta” to help trustees in their MLA meetings.

Faith Development

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace in partnership with ACSTA facilitated a three-day Workshop for the Development of Curricular Resources on July 2-4, 2015. Eighteen educators representing nine Alberta Catholic School Divisions participated in

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the workshop. The participants produced 14 packages of cross-disciplinary lesson plans aligned with the Alberta curriculum and adaptable for Catholic educators across the country. The lesson plans are still being edited and translated into French but will be available on the ACSTA and Peace and Development websites soon. A sample lesson plan is attached to this report.

The ACSTA AGM & Convention took place from November 13-15 at The Westin Edmonton. This year's theme was "Medievals, Mystics and Millennials - engaging heart mind and soul." Our keynote speaker Bishop Mark Hagemoen, Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith, provided an invigorating, thought-provoking discussion of how we can use our accumulated knowledge to develop a deeper understanding of our younger generations – the millennials - in order to strengthen our connection and further engagement and evangelization.

Communications

The summer edition of the Catholic Dimension is available online at http://www.acsta.ab.ca/content/file/Catholic_Dimension_Summer_2015.pdf.

In September, ACSTA hosted its first Catholic School Communicators Network meeting. The purpose of the meeting was:

- To share ideas, work, resources, and strategies on communication initiatives important to Catholic schools.
- To form a province-wide communication group to identify and establish common and consistent language and messaging in the event larger issues impacting Catholic education appear.
- To establish a new way to approach communications and engagement.

There was strong interest in creating a repository of resources for communicators to access and share – ACSTA will host this on its website.

Governance

In May, Dr. Garry Andrews facilitated an all-day session with the Board of Directors to develop a three-year strategic plan for the Association. After having had the opportunity to add their individual and board comments to the draft document, the Directors approved the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan at their September meeting.

The Advocacy/Communications Committee will be using the strategic objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan to develop an Advocacy Plan that will guide Board's advocacy initiatives for the coming year.

Saskatchewan

Communications

The committee has developed a communication plan for the 2015/16 year. Deacon Joe Lang will serve as our Communications Officer once again this year. On April 25, we had our major launch for the Faith in Our Students Campaign where we introduced a new three minute promotional video.

We hosted a meeting of Communication

Coordinators from each school division on May 27 to discuss plans for the support of the Faith in Our Students Campaign for the 2015/16 school year.

Deacon Joe and Executive Director Ken Loehndorf met with representatives from Holy Trinity Catholic Schools to discuss the the transfer of our web site.

They have agreed to assume responsibility for up-dating and the ongoing up-keep of the website.

Theodore Court Case

The plaintiffs asked the court to allow amendments for an Amended Amended Statement of Claim which would have broadened the case into a representative action involving all public boards in the province. Both the ministry lawyers and our lawyers opposed the application. The application was heard on April 27, 2015 and a decision was rendered on May 1 which ruled that the case could not be expanded.

The ministry lawyers and our lawyers asked for direction from the court with respect to the issue of the standing of the plaintiffs to bring the action to court. We were hoping to deal with the issue separately from the rest of the case. Our hope was that if we were successful on the standing issue in a bifurcated hearing we might avoid having to fight a full trial. The matter was heard on May 29 and the trial judge ruled against us in August. The issue of standing is still alive but will only be ruled on after the full trial.

The trial was set to begin on November 9 and is scheduled for 5 weeks.

We now have Bishop Don Bolen as our expert witness representing the authority of the church.

A communication plan for the Theodore litigation was approved at our September 18 Board of Directors meeting.

Curriculum Permeation Project

The committee has asked the Catholic Education Coordinators/Consultants Association of Saskatchewan (CECAS) to assume responsibility for this resource and to develop a plan to support the use of the resource into the future.

The committee has also requested that an evaluation of teacher usage of the resource materials be administered in May of 2016.

Sister's Legacy Project (Catholic Connections):

On October 1, 2015 the committee hosted a very successful unveiling ceremony in Regina which included a Eucharistic Liturgy and banquet with approximately 350 people in attendance, including 180 sisters from various religious orders.

The SCSBA has played an active role in this committee. Paula Scott, Vice President of the SCSBA chaired the committee which has met more than 40 times during the past 30 months.

Grades 9 - 12 Catholic Studies Curriculum Development

Grades 10-12 Catholic Studies Draft Curricula have been completed and were presented to the Bishops for their feedback on September 8, 2015.

We met the Bishops on October 19 to receive their final feedback on the Grades 10-12 courses.

Mr. Rob Schaan has been seconded for the First Semester of the 2015/16 school year to complete the work on Grade 9 Catholic Studies and to develop resource material as determined by the

Reference committee.

We have recently been informed that the Grade Nine Program will be recognized as a provincial curriculum similar to Grades 10-12.

The Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit (SPDU) is working on creating a list of resources for the new program. The Directors of Education and the Reference Committee will be finalizing implementation plans for the fall of 2016.

K-9 Religion Resource Development

On May 7, Pearson Canada hosted a Train the Trainer Workshop for the new Grade 1 Materials. This workshop was coordinated through CECAS.

The new Grade 1 Program is being implemented in 7/8 Catholic School Divisions during the 2015/16 school year. Teacher in-service is taking place in each of those school divisions using locally developed models.

Grade 2 print resources are out and ready to use. The digital resource will be ready to use by January 1, 2016.

Grade 3 will be ready for implementation in the 2016/17 school year.

Transgendered Resource Development Committee

At the request of the Education Committee, we have formed a committee to help teachers and administrators provide support for students who are presenting themselves as transgendered individuals.

This committee will continue the development of guidelines and support material to help teachers provide the needed support in this area. With the expectation of upcoming new legislation, the committee has also developed a Formation Protocol for Student Alliances For Gender and Sexual Diversity (GSA), which was shared with the Bishops for their feedback on September 8.

The Ministry has developed a document entitled "Gender and Sexual Diversity" and we have received permission to use this document with our own revisions to ensure that it is in keeping with Catholic Church teachings.

We are anticipating that this Ministry document will be distributed to all schools this fall and the Catholic Resource Document to be completed by January 1, 2016.

The Ministry is also planning on distributing information posters in all schools to support the policy document, which was distributed in April of 2015.

Manitoba

New School Opening!

The 18 Catholic schools in Manitoba have a fairly consistent population. The school age population in Manitoba is now remaining constant. A new Catholic school will be opening in Winnipeg in September 2016. Gonzaga Middle School, based on the Nativity Miguel model and sponsored by the Jesuits will operate in the Point Douglas

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neighborhood of central Winnipeg. It will cater to vulnerable Grade 6-8 students from disadvantaged neighborhoods by providing an enhanced and holistic program that will lower barriers to educational success and build social capital and leadership skills. The co-educational schools will have a strong academic program, longer school day, before and after school program, extended school year, nutrition program, transportation door to door, mentoring, and graduate support programs. There will no tuition and all costs will be covered through fundraising. Funds are already in place to cover the first two years of operation. As per government regulations, the school will not receive the government grant for independent (Catholic) schools until it has been in operation for three years. At that point it is estimated that grants will only cover 25 percent of the cost to operate the school because of the enhanced program. A Ukrainian Catholic Educational Centre that is currently not being used has been leased to house the school and will be undergoing major renovations this winter. This is the second Nativity Miguel model school to open in Canada, the first one being in Regina. A recruiting and admissions plan involving community groups and agencies active in the inner city is currently being developed. GMS will make a contribution towards the larger efforts of government and other educational and community based organizations to overcome the inertia of child poverty and socioeconomic disadvantage – helping to change lives through education, one student at a time.

Professional Development

The Manitoba Catholic Schools Office sponsored a professional development day for staff in partnership with the Western Conference of Catholic Religious Educators on November 6. The WCCRE will be holding their annual conference in Winnipeg (Saint Boniface) from November 5- 7. Keynote speakers will include Dr. Josephine Lombardi (Families as Soil: Understanding the influences that Shape Individuals and Families) and Fr. Eugene O'Reilly (Wasting or Drifting Away in Margaritaville). Teachers will also have a variety of workshops in the afternoon to choose from. This is the first time that the WCCRE has partnered with a local school system when planning their conference.

Ontario

Passing the Torch

Former Superintendent of Human Resources at the Dufferin-Peel CDSB, Nick Milanetti has recently assumed the role of Executive Director at OCSTA, following the retirement of from Kevin Kobus. Many representatives from across the province joined staff and Directors in Toronto last June for a lovely retirement reception held in honour of Kevin and his outstanding career in Catholic education. He will be missed!

The Association is pleased to have Nick on



Gonzaga Middle School is set to open its doors in September, 2016.

board given his more than 35 years' experience in Catholic education and his various leadership roles in our sector.

All Are Invited to Join "Our Catholic Schools"

All trustees and friends of Catholic education are invited to join OCSTA's "public newsletter" list of subscribers who receive the Association's "Our Catholic Schools" e-newsletter.

To be added to this list, please visit: www.faithinourfuture.ca/support

Upcoming Events

Beginning in September, OCSTA will launch the annual round of Fall Regional Meetings at five different locations across the province. The format of these meetings is designed to engage trustees in dialogue with regional peers, OCSTA's Directors and staff. There will be both faith development and business components to each session.

New Trustee Modules

Trustee learning modules, developed provincially through the Ontario Education Services Corporation and further enhanced by OCSTA to address the distinctive faith-based needs of Catholic trustees, are available on the OCSTA website within the online learning centre developed by OCSTA for the convenience of our members.

OESC has recently released four new modules addressing the following topics:

What Makes a Great Board Chair?

First Nation Trustees: Leading in Two Worlds

Developing a Code of Conduct for Trustees

Social Media

These modules will be edited to reflect the Catholic perspective, as per previous modules, and will be made available to our members in the OCSTA Good Governance Centre in the coming weeks. Consideration will be made with respect to providing these modules at an upcoming OCSTA event and communicated to members as soon as possible.

2015 Short Video Contest for Catholic School Students

The Association is pleased to announce the launch of another OCSTA sponsored short-video contest for students in grades 4-12 at Ontario's publicly funded English Catholic schools. The theme for this year's contest is: "Catholic Schools

– Living the Gospel."

Information regarding prizes, guidelines and submission requirements can be found on OCSTA's Faith in Our Future campaign website - <http://www.faithinourfuture.ca/student-video/>. Winners will be announced this month.

AFOCSC

Faits saillants du dernier conseil d'administration

C'est le 5 juin dernier qu'a eu lieu la dernière réunion du conseil d'administration de l'AFOCSC. Plusieurs faits saillants et résolutions ont découlé de cette réunion. En voici quelques-uns : Adoption d'une résolution pour que l'AFOCSC participe et contribue financièrement au développement et à la réalisation d'une nouvelle campagne de fidélisation pour l'ensemble des conseils scolaires catholiques de langue française.

Informations au sujet de la préparation de la Semaine de l'éducation catholique 2016, de la part de Sébastien Lacroix, conseiller en gestion des affaires diocésaines et scolaires du CSDCCS. Le thème recommandé par le comité spécial est : « Heureux les miséricordieux, car ils obtiendront miséricorde. » Matthieu 5, 7

Adoption d'une résolution pour que l'AFOCSC adhère à « Association of Roman Catholic Communicators of Canada (ARCCC) » pour le restant de l'année 2015 et l'année 2016. De plus, le directeur général de l'AFOCSC soumettra un rapport au conseil d'administration lors de la réunion de juin 2016 afin d'évaluer les avantages d'adhésion à cet organisme.

Amendement de la politique de remboursement des frais d'hébergement pour accorder une somme forfaitaire lorsque la personne est hébergée chez un tiers (famille, amis, etc).

Nouvelle campagne marketing

Il y a quelques semaines, l'AFOCSC et le RACCO se rencontraient au CECCE à Ottawa pour commencer à mettre des idées en place pour la nouvelle campagne de marketing, campagne qui s'échelonnait sur trois ans. Les membres du RACCO, avec leurs excellentes idées et connaissances en marketing, ont établi trois phases de

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travail.

- Phase 1: Sondage interne : Un sondage sera envoyé aux parents de nos élèves dans les 8 régions.
- Sondage externe : Un sondage sera envoyé aux parents d'enfants dans les 8 régions et qui ne fréquentent pas nos écoles.
- Phase 2: Après l'analyse des résultats, un appel d'offre sera envoyé à différentes agences de marketing pour développer la campagne.
- Phase 3: Déploiement de la campagne (incluant le placement publicitaire).

Il est important de noter que cette nouvelle campagne marketing se veut une campagne de notoriété et de rétention.

Demande d'une école secondaire catholique francophone

Des parents du CSCCS poursuivent leurs démarches pour obtenir le plein financement d'une nouvelle école secondaire catholique de langue française qui desservirait les élèves des régions de Brantford, Haldimand-Norfolk, Simcoe et Hamilton-Wentworth.

Plus de 2 500 pétitions ont été déposées, lesquelles seront inscrites officiellement dans les archives publiques.

La poursuite des parents contre le gouvernement de l'Ontario poursuit son cheminement devant les tribunaux, et l'AFOCSC se fait un devoir de vous mettre au courant des prochains développements.

Formation en démarchage politique

Le 23 septembre dernier, l'AFOCSC organisait une formation en action politique qui avait, entre autres comme objectifs, une compréhension précise du climat politique actuel de l'Ontario, un approfondissement de nos connaissances des députés clés dans nos circonscriptions et comment bien organiser une rencontre avec un(e) député(e).

Directions d'éducation, agents(es) des communications et conseillères et conseillers scolaires de nos huit Conseils sont venus en grand nombre pour cette formation clé qui rejoignait en tous points le plan stratégique annuel et le mandat direct de l'AFOCSC.

Monsieur Stewart Kiff, de Solstice Affaires Publiques et monsieur Benoit Mercier, directeur général de l'AFOCSC furent les conférenciers durant la matinée. Avec sa grande expérience en politique et comme lobbyiste, M. Kiff nous a bien expliqué, entre autres, où en étaient l'Ontario d'aujourd'hui, les enjeux en éducation catholique de langue française et les répercussions relatives aux élections. Pour sa part, monsieur Mercier, dans sa présentation intitulée «Pourquoi faire de l'action politique», a indiqué clairement les étapes à suivre en vue d'une implication politique réussie non partisane.

En après-midi, les conférenciers conviés étaient monsieur Michael Mantha, député NPD d'Algoma-Manitoulin et monsieur Yves Levesque, ancien conseiller scolaire.

Une semaine auparavant, l'AFOCSC s'était aussi réuni avec des membres du RACCO pour discuter des mêmes sujets et établir un plan de démarchage politique aux niveaux provincial et local.

Réjean Sirois : un au-revoir et un accueil

Monsieur Réjean Sirois, directeur de l'éducation du Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud (CSDCCS) a annoncé son départ en juillet dernier. À partir d'octobre 2015, monsieur Sirois assumera les fonctions de directeur de l'éducation au Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est (CECCE), à Ottawa.

Journée des Franco-ontariens : une participation phénoménale et un esprit de rassemblement unique

Le 25 septembre dernier, toute la population francophone et francophile de l'Ontario s'est mobilisée pour souligner la Journée des Franco-ontariens et le 40e anniversaire du drapeau franco-ontarien. Nos huit Conseils scolaires étaient de la partie, et ils ont tous, à leur manière, célébré cet événement marquant. Plus de 400 drapeaux verts et blancs se sont levés et ont flotté fièrement aux quatre coins de la province.

Entente de principe conclue avec les enseignants francophones (AEFO)

C'est le 16 septembre dernier que le Conseil des associations d'employeurs, composé de l'Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC) et de l'Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO), a signé une entente de principe provinciale avec l'Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO). Cet accord conclu a reflété la volonté de toutes les parties d'assurer la qualité de l'enseignement offert aux élèves de langue française en Ontario. La conclusion de cette entente de principe a démontré la

pertinence de la nouvelle formule de négociation dans le monde de l'éducation.

Les détails de cet accord seront rendus publics après que les membres du syndicat et les conseils scolaires en aient ratifié les termes. Lorsqu'acceptée, l'entente avec l'AEFO sera valide jusqu'aux prochaines négociations en 2017.

ACELF : Un congrès qui mise sur la jeunesse

Les 24 au 26 septembre dernier a eu lieu à Niagara Falls, le 68e congrès de l'ACELF, congrès qui avait pour thème En français? Avec plaisir!, et qui accueillait plus de 650 personnes. La présidence de l'événement était assurée par Madame Janine Griffore, sous-ministre adjointe, division de l'éducation en langue française, de l'éducation autochtone et de la recherche. Soulignons également la présence de l'honorable Liz Sandals, ministre de l'Éducation de l'Ontario. Rappelons-nous que l'AFOCSC a fait partie du comité de la thématique du congrès.

Ce congrès invitait tous les participantes et participants à explorer des stratégies permettant aux jeunes et moins jeunes d'apprendre la langue de Molière tout en s'amusant et avec l'objectif de développer un rapport positif envers la langue française.

Le congrès 2015 de l'ACELF faisait partie des célébrations officielles du 40e anniversaire de la présence francophone en Ontario.

AFOCSC

Highlights of last June board meeting



Nouveau conseil d'administration de la FNCSF (2015-2016): 1re rangée de gauche à droite : Luc Brisebois (Nunavut), Denis M. Chartrand (Ontario-ACEPO), Bernard Lesage (Manitoba), Melinda Chartrand (présidente), Mario Pelletier (Nouveau-Brunswick-FCENB), Roger Paul (directeur général), Marc-André Ouellette (Colombie-Britannique). 2e rangée : Jean Lemay (Ontario-AFOCSC), Jean-Sébastien Blais (Yukon), Kevin Bell (Alberta), Ali Chaisson (Terre-Neuve-Labrador), Nadine Penney (Saskatchewan), Émile Gallant (Île-du-Prince-Édouard), Léonard LeFort (Nouvelle-Écosse), Simon Cloutier (Territoires du Nord-Ouest)

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The following are a few of the topics discussed and motions emanating from it: A resolution for AFOCSC to participate and contribute to the development of a new visibility campaign for the French language schools both Catholic and public.

Information regarding the preparation of Catholic education week 2016 by Sébastien Lacroix, responsible diocesan and education affairs for the greater Toronto area Catholic school board, CSDCCS. The theme, "Happy the merciful, for they shall receive mercy", Matthew 5,7, was chosen by the committee.

A motion for AFOCSC to become a member of the Association of Roman Catholic Communicators of Canada for the remainder of 2015 and 2016. The executive is to report to the board's June 2016 meeting in order to evaluate the advantages of continuing membership.

Amendment to the policy regarding reimbursement for lodging to allow a fixed sum when a member stays at a third party (family or friend, etc).

New marketing campaign

AFOCSC and members of RACCO (Catholic communication agents of Ontario) met in Ottawa to brainstorm in order to develop a new marketing campaign that will be deployed over three years. The committee established three phases of the work:

- Phase 1: Internal survey: A survey will be sent to parents of our students in the eight Catholic boards of the province. External survey: A survey will be sent to parents in the 8 regions and whose children do not attend our schools.
- Phase 2: After analysis of the results, different marketing agencies will be asked to submit their proposals.
- Phase 3: Deployment of the campaign (including publicity placement).

It is important to note that this new campaign's objective is to assure visibility and retention. An added bonus is information concerning "client" habits

Request for a new Catholic francophone secondary school

Parents of the greater Toronto area French Catholic board continue their fight in order to receive full funding for a new secondary school to serve pupils in the Brantford, Haldimand-Norfolk, Simcoe and Hamilton-Wentworth region.

More than 2,500 petitions have been submitted, and officially recorded in the public archives. Legal recourse was initiated against the provincial government and the case continues.

Training in political action

On September 23, AFOCSC organized a training session in political action which reviewed comprehension of the present political climate in Ontario, a better knowledge of the provincial deputies in our regions and how to organize an effective meeting with a deputy.

Directors of education, communications, agents, board chairs and trustees of our eight member boards gathered in large numbers in

Toronto for this key training session which is a key component and response to our annual strategic plan and a direct mandate of AFOCSC.

Stewart Kiff, de Solstice Affaires Publiques and Benoit Mercier, executive director of AFOCSC were the morning presenters. With his extensive background in politics and as lobbyist, Kiff explained Ontario's situation today, the issues in Catholic French language education and the repercussions relative to the elections. As for Mercier, in his presentation entitled "Why engage in political action", he outlined clearly the steps to be taken to succeed a non-partisan implication.

In the afternoon the invited speakers were Michael Mantha, NDP deputy for Algoma-Manitoulin, and Yves Levesque, former school board trustee.

A week before, AFOCSC and RACCO had met to discuss the same subjects and to establish a political action plan for the local and provincial levels.

Réjean Sirois: aurevoir and bienvenue

Monsieur Réjean Sirois, director of education of the Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud (CSDCCS) (greater Toronto area) announced his departure last July. Starting in October 2015, monsieur Sirois will assume the responsibilities as director of education for the Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est (CECCE), in Ottawa.

Franco-Ontarian day: a gathering of pride and of historical significance

On September 25, francophones and franco-philés throughout the whole province gathered in their respective regions to raise the franco-ontarian flag, this on its 40th anniversary. Our eight member boards were there participating along with the students as more than 400 green and white flags were proudly raised in public places as well as on school grounds in the four corners of the province.

Agreement in principle with our teacher association (AEFO)

Last September 16, an agreement in principle was signed between, on the one hand, the employer group composed of AFOCSC, ACÉPO (french public school board association) and the Crown, and on the other, the teacher association AEFO.

This agreement reflects the desire by all parties to offer quality education to the francophone students in Ontario. The resolution to the negotiations demonstrates the pertinence of the new approach or formula of negotiation in the educational sector.

The details of the agreement will be made public only after the teacher union and the twelve school boards have ratified the terms of the agreement. When adopted the agreement will be in force until the next negotiations in 2017.

ACELF (Canadian association for french language education): Focus on the youth

The 68th convention was held from September 24-26 in Niagara Falls, which had as its theme

"In French? With pleasure!". Six hundred and fifty participants came from all parts of the country to attend this popular annual event. Presiding over this event was the Assistant deputy minister for french language and aboriginal education, Janine Griffore. Assisting as well was the Minister of Education for Ontario, Liz Sandals. AFOCAC was involved in the structuring of the theme for the convention.

The 2015 ACELF convention was a part of the official festivities surrounding the 400th anniversary of the presence of the francophone community in Ontario.

Atlantic Region

AGM Planning

The member boards of this association offer congratulations to CCSTA for a most successful 2015 convention in St. John's hosted by the Board of Governors of St. Bonaventure's College.

There were many highlights, though the keynote speakers, Fr. Matt Malone, S. J. And Bishop Brian Dunn of Antigonish stood out. Association representative, Margaret Savidge, took notes of the two keynote speakers and these were forwarded to the board members/schools in this association. We were delighted to see so many Catholic trustees (and their spouses/companions) come to St. John's. That said, the very few members of RCISA, AR boards who attended the convention suggests there are challenges in our region that need to be addressed in order to have a more representative presence at future conventions.

Enrollment Status

Schools of the Atlantic Region are back to classes with final enrollment figures to come in October. There has been no change in the zero funding policy of the three provincial governments concerned. Boards continue to struggle to keep registration fees at an acceptable level for parents.

Toonies for Tuition

Member schools have been notified of the 2015-16 campaign Toonies for Tuition; a good response is anticipated. As in past years, our schools are most appreciative of the CCSTA bursary awards of the past year. Those awards help in the overall tuition assistance programs that schools have in place to make education affordable especially to families in need. Our schools are hopeful that the clear call for commitment to the Toonies cause heard at the CCSTA 2015 AGM will have a most positive response throughout the country.

Chaplain's Corner/ Un mot de l'aumônier

The World Needs Hope!



Fr. Rémi Lessard
CCSTA Chaplain/Aumônier

As the world deals with war, terrorism and the influx of refugees in Europe, it seems clear to me that the world needs hope. Can we provide such hope to humanity?

When I was a theology student, an invitation from the Bishop of Olinda-Recife, Brazil struck me. Bishop Helder Camera told us as he gave us a presentation, "Should you want to instil hope in us from the Third world, take care of your poor in Canada; for if you do so, we will believe that you will one

day help us in developing countries."

Yet, it is quite possible that we may have felt overwhelmed as we witnessed all through the year these inhumane events. What can we do? It seems to me that Bishop Camera is indicating to us the road to travel. If we instil hope at home, we will at the same time instil hope in the entire world.

If so, how can we do this? Jesus gave us multiple examples in the Gospels: listen to others, share our wealth, forgive seventy times seven, console the downtrodden, quench the thirsty, visit the sick, support those bereaving, welcome the strangers, etc.

Let us not give in to fear or discouragement as we face this challenge. All roads of hope are full of obstacles and surprises. Let us remind ourselves that we are not walking this road alone. Jesus gave us in Spirit and with his help we will renew the face of the earth. Did he not tell us in the Gospel of Matthew "And I will be with you every day until the end of times." Strengthen by this conviction; let us instil hope in a word that greatly needs it!

Le monde a besoin d'espérance!

Devant les derniers événements terroristes de Paris et devant l'afflux des réfugiés en Europe, il m'apparaît évident que le monde a besoin d'une parole d'espérance. Pouvons-nous offrir cette parole à l'humanité ?

Une invitation m'a profondément marqué lorsque j'étais étudiant en théologie. L'évêque du diocèse d'Olinda-Recife du Brésil, Mgr Helder Camera, nous disait dans une conférence « Si vous voulez faire naître en nous l'espérance, occupez-vous de vos pauvres au Canada, car si vous le faites chez-vous, nous croirons qu'un jour vous viendrez nous prêter main-forte dans nos pays en voie de développement. »

Il se peut que nous nous sentions dépassés par les événements inhumains desquels nous avons été témoins tout au long de l'année. Que faire devant tout cela ? Il me semble que le conseil de Mgr Camera nous indique un chemin à entreprendre. Si nous semons l'espérance chez-nous, nous sèmerons du même coup l'espérance dans le monde entier.

Alors, comment faire naître cette espérance ? Jésus nous donne de multiples exemples dans les Évangiles : écouter les autres, partager nos biens, pardonner soixante-dix fois sept fois, consoler les gens tristes, nourrir les affamés, donner à boire aux assoiffés, visiter les malades, se faire proche des endeuillés, accueillir l'étranger, etc.

Ne cédon pas à la peur ni au découragement devant ce défi. Toute route qui conduit à l'espérance est parsemée d'obstacles et de surprises. Rappelons-nous que nous ne marchons pas seuls. Jésus nous a donné son Esprit-Saint et avec lui, il nous est possible de renouveler la face de la terre ! Ne l'a-t-il pas dit dans l'Évangile de Matthieu « Et moi, je suis avec vous tous les jours jusqu'à la fin des temps. » Forts de cette certitude, semons l'espérance dans un monde qui en a grandement besoin !

Joyeux Noël ~ Merry Christmas



*Que Son amour, sa joie et Sa paix
continue de combler votre
coeur de merveilles.*

*Nous vous offrons nos meilleurs
voeux de Noël.*

~

*May His love, His joy, and His
peace continue to fill your heart
with wonder.*

Blessings to you this Christmas.