

Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association

Association canadienne des commissaires d'écoles catholiques



June/Juin 2016

CCSTA NEWSLETTER/ COMMUNIQUÉ DE L'ACCEC

www.ccsta.ca

Yellowknife Welcomes You!

Yellowknife Catholic Schools is very excited to be hosting the CCSTA Convention for the first time ever. We have been working hard to ensure that you have a great experience and hopefully have you leave with many fond memories. During your visit in June, you will have the opportunity to enjoy long days of daylight and hopefully plenty of sunshine. Our Friday night social event will provide you a taste of some northern delights as well as northern entertainment, hopefully ending with an opportunity for late night golfing in the midnight sun.

Yellowknife is the capital city of the Northwest Territories, and the only city in the Northwest Territories. Yellowknife is a city of contrasts and vibrancy. With a population just under 20,000 and one of the youngest populations in the country, it maintains the friendliness of a small town and the opportunity and energy of a metropolis. A small, culturally diverse city in the far north of Canada, Yellowknife combines all the urban amenities with memories of the old gold prospecting days. Gold and government administration were the mainstays of Yellowknife's economy until the late 1990s, when the fall of gold prices led to the closure of the two main gold companies and the creation of the new territory of Nunavut meant the transfer out of a third of government employees. The discovery of diamonds in the Northwest Territories in 1991 came to the rescue, and diamond mining, cutting, polishing and selling became major activities for Yellowknife residents. While winters in Yellowknife are cold and dark, long summer days with plenty of sunshine make Yellowknife a magnet for outdoor adventurers and nature lovers.

Yellowknife Catholic Schools has been providing quality education to northern students for over sixty years. We are the only faith-based district in the Northwest Territories. Although we are a Catholic school district we welcome families of all faiths. Our students are blessed to have the freedom to grow in all aspects, including spiritually. We truly are developing the whole child.

Our district consists of three schools that house approximately 1,300 students. The Yellowknife Catholic School Board consists of seven trustees. Our trustees are very student-centered and continue to work towards improving our learning organization. Our mission, values and beliefs focus on the development and gifts of each child with their individual talents and cultural diversity. We know that collaboration, partnerships and inclusion are the keys to realizing our goals. In the 60+ years of existence, the Catholic School system has been anything but separate. It's been a lively, influential, nurturing, supportive part of the City of Yellowknife.

We look forward to sharing the Yellowknife Catholic Schools hospitality with you when you join us in June.



Bienvenue à Yellowknife!

Le conseil Yellowknife Catholic Schools est fier d'accueillir pour la toute première fois le congrès/AGA de l'ACCEC. Nous avons travaillé fort pour vous permettre de vivre une expérience unique et conserver des souvenirs mémorables. Au cours de votre visite, vous pourrez profiter de longues heures de clarté et, souhaitons-le, d'ensoleillement. Notre soirée de vendredi vous permettra de profiter des plaisirs et de l'hospitalité nordiques, et se terminera par une expérience de golf au soleil de minuit.

Yellowknife est la capitale des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, et la seule ville des Territoires. C'est une ville de contrastes et d'effervescence. Avec une population d'à peine 20 000 habitants, l'une des plus jeunes au pays, elle offre l'accueil d'une petite communauté en même temps que les opportunités et l'énergie d'une métropole. Yellowknife présente une grande diversité culturelle dans le grand-nord canadien et des installations urbaines dans l'ombre du souvenir de l'époque des prospecteurs d'or. L'or et le gouvernement ont longtemps été les moteurs de son économie jusque vers la fin des années 90, lorsque la chute du prix de l'or a forcé la fermeture des deux plus grandes compagnies minières. La création du Territoire du Nunavut a aussi provoqué le départ du tiers des fonctionnaires. En 1991, la découverte de diamants dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest a ravivé l'économie, et l'extraction, la coupe, le polissage et la vente des diamants sont devenus

les activités principales des résidents. Si les hivers à Yellowknife sont longs et froids, ses longues journées ensoleillées d'été en font une attraction importante pour les amateurs de la nature.

Le conseil Yellowknife Catholic Schools offre une éducation de qualité à ses élèves depuis plus de soixante ans. Nous sommes le seul conseil scolaire confessionnel des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Bien que catholiques, nous accueillons les familles de toutes confessions. Nos élèves ont le privilège de grandir dans tous les aspects de leur développement, incluant l'aspect spirituel. Nous offrons réellement un développement de l'enfant dans son entier.

Notre district consiste de trois écoles qui accueillent environ 1 300 élèves. Le Yellowknife Catholic School Board est géré par sept conseillers, qui travaillent sans arrêt à améliorer notre système axé sur l'élève. Notre mission, nos valeurs et nos croyances sont axés sur le développement des dons et des habiletés de chaque élève, selon ses talents individuels et son origine culturelle. Nous savons que l'inclusion, la collaboration et le partenariat sont la clé pour atteindre nos objectifs. Dans son histoire de plus de soixante ans, le système catholique est loin d'avoir été « séparé ». Il a été un moteur vivant, influent et solidaire du développement de Yellowknife.

Nous avons hâte de partager avec vous l'hospitalité du Yellowknife Catholic Schools lors de votre visite en juin prochain.

In This Issue



A Year of
Mercy



The 2016
Higgins Winner



Regulation 17

President's Message

The Year of Mercy

Every day, we work hard to integrate works of mercy into our lives.

We forgive one another. We listen to a friend's problems. We visit our sick relatives. But we can always work on being kinder to others, showing compassion and reaching out more often.

Pope Francis' Year of Mercy has encouraged us all to take this next year to reflect on our relationship with God, with ourselves and with others. It's a time when – more so than usual – we look to God for forgiveness while also demonstrating His love to others.

If you need some inspiration, do you want to know where you can witness acts of mercy day in and day out?

Walk into a Catholic school.

The Catholic school hallways are a place where acts of mercy are constantly demonstrated. Teachers guiding students. Students helping friends. Principals supporting teachers.

The schools are a consistent reminder of how acts of mercy can do so much for a person's and community's wellbeing.

As I close up my two-year term as the CCSTA President, I, too, have experienced works of mercy from others within our Canadian Catholic school community. From meeting trustees eager to give their time to witnessing schools raising money for the Toonies for Tuition initiative, I feel fortunate to have had this unforgettable opportunity experiencing these real-life moments of mercy while serving for and representing the CCSTA.

Those good experiences also have to do with the people you're surrounded with in these moments.

I can't thank CCSTA Executive Director Julian Hanlon and Executive Assistant Jean Montminy enough. Their supportive and encouraging nature mixed with their expertise and organizational skills have left me completely grateful for getting the chance to work with them. I'd also like to thank former CCSTA Executive Director John Stunt for all that he did during his time with CCSTA up until his retirement last summer.

My time of reflection is also geared toward our Board of Directors. Each member brings a unique experience to our table, and I've learned so much from them over the years. I wish them all the best as they continue to live out CCSTA's 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."

It's a vision to live by and a vision that truly reflects the spirit of the CCSTA.

God Bless.

Respectfully,

Mike St.Amand
CCSTA President



CCSTA/ACCEC President
Mike St. Amand

Rapport du président

L'Année de la Miséricorde

À chaque jour, nous nous efforçons de faire œuvre de miséricorde dans nos vies.

Nous nous pardonnons les uns les autres, nous écoutons les confidences d'un ami, nous visitons nos parents malades, mais il reste toujours place à l'amélioration. On pourrait être plus avenants envers les autres et montrer plus de compassion.

L'Année de la Miséricorde décrétée par le pape François nous invite à réfléchir à notre relation avec Dieu, nous-mêmes et les autres. Plus qu'à l'accoutumée, c'est le moment de demander le pardon de Dieu tout en reflétant Son amour sur les autres.

Vous cherchez une inspiration? Vous voudriez être témoins d'actes de miséricorde jour après jour?

Visitez une école catholique.

Les couloirs des écoles catholiques sont constamment le théâtre d'actes de miséricorde. On y voit des enseignants et des enseignantes aider des élèves, des élèves aidant des amis, des directions d'école appuyant des enseignants.

Les écoles nous rappellent constamment combien les actes de miséricorde sont importants pour les individus et la communauté.

Au cours de mon mandat de deux ans comme président de l'ACCEC, moi aussi j'ai bénéficié d'œuvres de miséricorde au sein de notre communauté scolaire catholique canadienne. J'ai vu des conseillers scolaires généreux de leur temps et des écoles qui amassaient des fonds pour Toonies for Tuition. Je me considère privilégié d'avoir vécu cette expérience de vrais moments de miséricorde tout en servant et représentant l'ACCEC.

Ces expériences sont aussi liées aux gens qui sont présents lorsqu'elles se produisent. Je ne saurais assez remercier Julian Hanlon, directeur général, et notre aide administrative Jean Montminy. Leur appui, leur expertise et leurs aptitudes organisationnelles m'ont été d'un grand secours, et je suis reconnaissant d'avoir eu le plaisir de travailler avec eux. Je tiens aussi à remercier l'ancien directeur général de l'ACCEC, John Stunt, pour sa contribution à l'ACCEC jusqu'à sa retraite l'été dernier.

Mes réflexions s'arrêtent aussi à notre conseil d'administration, dont chacun des membres apporte son expérience unique à la table du conseil. J'ai beaucoup appris d'eux au cours des ans. Je leur offre mes meilleurs vœux pour qu'ils continuent de poursuivre la vision de l'ACCEC : « 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. »

C'est une vision qui reflète bien l'esprit de l'ACCEC et qu'il vaut la peine de poursuivre.

Que Dieu vous accompagne.

Respectueusement,

Mike St.Amand
président, ACCEC



Left: Mike (fourth from left) in 2014 with the Board of Directors; Mike accepting the Toonies for Trophy in 2012 on behalf of Saskatchewan.
Gauche: Mike (4ème de la g.) en 2014, avec le conseil d'administration; Mike reçoit le trophée Toonies for Tuition pour la Saskatchewan.





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...

As you read this newsletter, another school year will be drawing to a close. As we reflect back on the past year, we can count our blessings. I'm sure many have also had their share of challenges; however, one of the joys of working in Catholic Education is that there are many more positives than negatives. It is important to celebrate these positives and be thankful that we have the opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of the thousands of students we serve.

This past year I have had the pleasure of attending the following AGM's – the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association, and the Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques. Our Vice President, Marino Gazzola, was also pleased to attend the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association's AGM. These conferences were characterized by excellent speakers, great workshops and just as important, the opportunity to network. As I've stated in the past, Catholic Education is alive and well in Canada!

In addition, President Mike St. Amand and I attended the National Catholic Education Association's (NCEA) AGM. NCEA is the American equivalent of CCSTA. While there was a major focus on fundraising, as all parochial schools in the US are private, there were several excellent speakers and workshops. The occasion to meet with our US counterparts provided us with a great opportunity to discuss some of the similar challenges we face.

A few highlights from this past year include:

- Our incorporation under the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act (CNCA) will be complete when our by-laws are ratified at the AGM.
- CCSTA hosted a very successful lobby day and reception on Parliament Hill and will follow up with a local engagement strategy.
- Donations to the Toonies for Tuition fund were up by \$6,500, for a total of \$45,000. However, we still have some work ahead of us as the total requested was \$133,000. A big thank you to all who contributed. These funds allow deserving students the opportunity to attend Catholic schools in provinces with limited or no public funding.
- Our social media engagement strategy, including our website and our new twitter account @CCSTAconnect, has been very successful. We continue to trend above industry norms for people connecting with us.

In closing, I hope to see many of you in Yellowknife at our AGM and Convention. To all, a well-deserved break, enjoy a safe and peaceful summer.



Julian Hanlon,
CCSTA Executive Director

Nouvelles du bureau central

Au moment de lire ces lignes, une autre année scolaire tirera à sa fin, et ça aura été une année fructueuse. Je suis certain que vous avez eu votre part de défis; cependant, l'un des avantages de travailler en éducation catholique est qu'il y a toujours plus de positif que de négatif. C'est important de célébrer ces accomplissements, et nous devons être reconnaissants de pouvoir affecter favorablement la vie des milliers d'élèves pour qui nous travaillons.

Cette année, j'ai eu le plaisir d'assister aux AGA de la Saskatchewan School Boards Association, de l'Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association, et de l'Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques. Notre vice-président, Marino Gazzola, a également participé à l'AGA de l'Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association. Ces congrès se sont distingués par l'excellence des conférenciers, des ateliers et bien sûr, par leurs opportunités de réseautage. Comme je l'ai mentionné auparavant, l'éducation catholique se porte bien au Canada!

De plus, votre président Mike St. Amand et moi avons participé au congrès/AGA de la National Catholic Education Association (NCEA). La NCEA est l'équivalente américaine de l'ACCEC. Bien que le financement ait été au cœur des discussions, étant donné que toutes les écoles paroissiales des États-Unis sont privées, les conférenciers et les ateliers y étaient excellents. Nous avons eu le privilège de rencontrer nos homologues américains et de discuter de nos défis communs.

Voici certains des faits saillants de la dernière année:

- Notre incorporation sous la Loi canadienne sur les organisations sans but lucratif sera complète après l'approbation de nos règlements internes s'y rapportant lors de l'AGA.
 - L'ACCEC a tenu une journée de lobbying très productive, suivie d'une réception sur la Colline du parlement. Une stratégie d'engagement au niveau local en découlera.
 - Les dons au fonds de Toonies for Tuition ont augmenté de 6 500\$ par rapport à l'an dernier, pour un total de 45 000\$. Nous devons poursuivre nos efforts puisque la demande d'aide dépassait les 133 000\$. Grands mercis à tous ceux qui ont contribué à cette initiative. Ces fonds permettent à des élèves méritants de fréquenter l'école catholique dans les provinces où les subventions sont partielles ou inexistantes.
 - Notre stratégie de présence dans les médias sociaux s'est soldée par un grand succès. Notre site web et notre nouveau compte Twitter @CCSTAconnect sont fréquentés à un rythme dépassant les normes de l'industrie.
- J'espère vous rencontrer tous au congrès/AGA de Yellowknife. À tous je souhaite des vacances bien méritées, et un été de paix et de repos.

Julian Hanlon
Directeur général

Kevin Kobus celebrated for commitment to Catholic education with prestigious Higgins Award

With a career spanning more than four decades, Kevin Kobus has fostered a reputation as one of the most dedicated and influential leaders in Canada's Catholic education community.

Over the last 40 years, Kevin has held various leadership positions within Catholic school boards, the Ontario Ministry of Education and on numerous provincial and national associations. His colleagues say he is highly regarded – even legendary – across Ontario and Canada for his extensive knowledge and judgement, collaborative approach, honesty and integrity and commitment to students.

This June, Kobus will be recognized by the CCSTA for his exceptional contribution to Catholic education in Canada with the prestigious 2016 Higgins Award. The award is given out annually to one extraordinary individual in memory of a distinguished Canadian jurist and Catholic School Trustee, the Honourable Justice James Higgins.

“In the history of Catholic education, there is a select group of servant leaders who have dedicated a lifetime to making an impact at the provincial, national and local levels for the benefit of Catholic schools and Kevin Kobus is most certainly in that group,” explained Kathy Burtnik, President of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association, in her nomination letter. “His wisdom is borne of faith and experience. He has not only addressed the provincial needs of Catholic education in Ontario but he has served as a wise advisor and corraling force in addressing Catholic education issues

across the country.”

Born and raised in Renfrew, Kevin started his career as a teacher with the Renfrew County Separate School Board. He then made his way south to the Toronto Catholic District School Board where he served in various positions for 25 years. From serving as a teacher to the Superintendent of Education to the Superintendent of Employee Relations, Kevin gained an enormous amount of experience, which led to opportunities within the government.

In the late '90s, Kevin served as a senior policy advisory on the Education Improvement Commission and was part of a four-person team that worked to develop policies that would help guide school boards through their initial year of amalgamation.

He was subsequently hired as the Director of Education, Chief Education Officer and Treasurer of the Board for the Simcoe Muskoka CDSB from 1998 to 2003. He served on the first board of directors of the then newly formed Catholic School Boards Services Association (a cooperative of the Ontario Public and Catholic school boards).

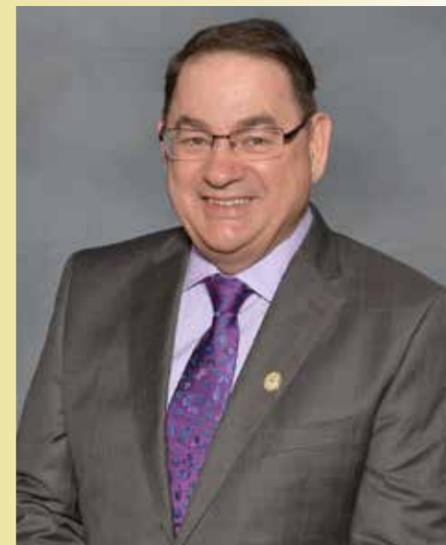
He then went to Queen's Park. Kevin served as Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of Business and Finance of the Ministry of Education from January, 2004 to April, 2005. This is a significant role as few educators from the Catholic community have served as an ADM.

Following his time with the government, Kevin returned to the

TCDSB to serve as the Director of Education and Chief Education Officer from 2005-2008. In 2008, Kevin joined the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association as the Senior Policy Advisor of Labour and Finance. Two years later, he was named its Executive Director until his retirement in 2015. With his extensive background in labour and school-board management, Kevin helped the OCSTA shape and influence some of the most important education legislation in recent years, including the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act of 2014.

“Catholic education in Ontario is a complicated and delicate enterprise. Kevin's success in so many positions, over such a long period of time, shows that he had the gift of acute political sensitivity,” said Ontario Court of Appeal Judge Peter Lauwers, who worked alongside Kevin since the early 1980s. “Kevin's work over the years demonstrates his deep love of the Church and of Catholic education and his strong commitment to social justice.”

In his nomination letter, John Crocco, Director of Education at the Niagara Catholic District School Board, explained why he feels Kevin is the most deserving recipient of the Higgins Award this year. “Kevin's exceptional leadership and passionate dedication to Catholic educational excellence is renowned throughout the Catholic Education Community in Ontario and Canada,” he wrote. “Among his distinguished personal and professional characteristics... it is Kevin's constant willingness to assist in whatever way possible, to enrich



Kevin Kobus

and foster the unique Catholic educational experience for all students across Canada, which makes him an exceptional role model for Catholic leaders in our country.”

Throughout his four-decade career, Kevin's hard work hasn't gone unnoticed. He received the 2003 OCSOA Provincial Award for Exemplary Leadership in Catholic Education. In 2008, the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario gave him the Medal of Honour and a year later he was named the 2009 BE Nelligan Award recipient for leadership in Catholic education. Just last year, he received the Father John Redmond Award from the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO) for extraordinary service in Catholic education.

Kevin will accept the 2016 Higgins Award before his peers this June at the CCSTA AGM in Yellowknife.

Kevin Kobus reçoit le prestigieux prix Higgins pour son implication en éducation catholique

Au cours de sa carrière de plus de 40 ans, Kevin Kobus s'est taillé la réputation d'être l'un des leaders les plus engagés et influents de la communauté éducative catholique au Canada.

Pendant ces 40 années, Kevin a occupé divers postes de responsabilité au sein de conseils scolaires catholiques, au ministère de l'Éducation de l'Ontario et auprès de plusieurs associations provinciales et nationales. Ses collègues disent qu'on le tient en très haute estime partout en Ontario et au Canada à cause de ses vastes connaissances, de son jugement, de son approche collaborative, son honnêteté, son intégrité et son engagement envers les élèves.

En juin prochain, l'ACCEC soulignera sa contribution exceptionnelle à l'éducation catholique au Canada en lui remettant le prestigieux prix Higgins 2016. Ce prix est attribué annuellement à une personne d'exception, à la mémoire d'un distingué juriste et conseiller scolaire catholique canadien, l'honorable juge James Higgins.

« Dans l'histoire de l'éducation catholique, il existe un groupe de leaders-serviteurs qui ont consacré leur vie à améliorer le sort de l'école catholique, que ce soit au niveau régional, provincial ou national, et Kevin Kobus en fait partie, » explique Kathy Burtnik, présidente de l'Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

dans sa lettre de mise en candidature. « Sa sagesse découle de sa foi et de son expérience. Non seulement s'est-il attardé aux besoins de l'éducation catholique en Ontario, mais il a aussi été un conseiller avisé et une force rassembleuse dans les questions d'éducation catholique partout au pays. »

Originaire de Renfrew, Kevin a amorcé sa carrière d'enseignant au Renfrew County Separate School Board. Il a ensuite joint les rangs du Toronto Catholic District School Board, où il a oeuvré pendant 25 ans à différents postes. D'enseignant à surintendant de l'éducation, puis surintendant des relations de travail, Kevin a acquis une vaste expérience

qui lui a ouvert des opportunités au gouvernement.

À la fin des années 90, il a agi en tant que conseiller politique auprès de la Commission de l'amélioration de l'éducation et a fait partie du quatuor qui a développé les politiques pour aider les conseils scolaires à faire face aux premières années de fusion.

Ensuite, de 1998 à 2003, il a agi en tant que directeur de l'Éducation, directeur général de l'enseignement et trésorier du conseil au Simcoe Muskoka CDSB. Il a siégé au premier conseil d'administration de la nouvelle Catholic School Boards Services Association, une coopérative regroupant des conseils catholiques et publics

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FROM PAGE 4

de l'Ontario.

De janvier 2004 à avril 2005, il a travaillé à Queen's Park en tant que sous-ministre adjoint des Affaires et des Finances au ministère de l'Éducation. Ceci représente une fonction importante que très peu d'enseignant issus de la communauté catholique ont occupée.

Après cette expérience au gouvernement, Kevin est retourné au TCDSB en tant que directeur de l'Éducation et directeur général de l'enseignement, de 2005 à 2008. En 2008, il s'est joint à l'Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association en tant que conseiller politique principal en matière de travail et de finances. Deux ans plus tard, il

a été nommé directeur général, poste qu'il a occupé jusqu'à sa retraite en 2015. Grâce à sa grande expérience en gestion scolaire et dans les relations de travail, Kevin a aidé l'OCTA à façonner et à orienter certaines des plus importantes lois en éducation des dernières années, dont la Loi de 2014 sur la négociation collective dans les conseils scolaires.

«L'éducation catholique en Ontario est une question complexe et délicate. Les réussites de Kevin dans autant de postes différents et sur une période aussi prolongée montrent bien qu'il possède un sens aigu de la politique, » dit Peter Lauwers, juge à la Cour d'appel de l'Ontario, auprès de qui il a travaillé depuis le début des années 80. « Son travail au cours des ans fait foi de son profond amour pour l'Église et l'éducation catholique, et de son

profond engagement pour la justice sociale. »

Dans sa lettre d'appui à sa candidature, John Crocco, directeur de l'Éducation au Niagara Catholic District School Board, expliquait pourquoi Kevin lui semble être le candidat le plus méritant au prix Higgins de cette année.

« Le leadership exceptionnel et l'engagement passionné de Kevin pour l'éducation catholique sont reconnus dans toute la communauté éducative catholique en Ontario et au Canada, » écrivait-il. « Parmi ses attributs personnels et professionnels... c'est son empressement constant à offrir son aide de quelque façon que ce soit, à enrichir et à favoriser une expérience éducative catholique unique à tous les élèves au Canada, qui font de Kevin

un modèle exceptionnel de leader catholique dans notre pays. »

Le travail acharné de Kevin a souvent été reconnu au cours de sa carrière. En 2003, il a reçu l'OCSOA Provincial Award for Exemplary Leadership in Catholic Education. En 2008, la Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario lui a décerné la Médaille d'honneur, et un an plus tard, il a été le lauréat du prix BE Nelligan 2009 pour son leadership en éducation catholique. L'année dernière, il a obtenu du Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO) le prix Father John Redmond pour son service exceptionnel en éducation catholique.

Kevin acceptera le prix Higgins 2016 devant ses pairs lors de l'AGA de l'ACCEC à Yellowknife, en juin prochain.

Toonies for Tuition Campaign Charges On

Who will win the TFT Trophy?

When three schools from the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board in Ontario decided to use a dress down day to support the Toonies for Tuition initiative in early May, good things happened: they raised \$2,300.

That means that more than 1,100 students from St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary, St. Peter Secondary, and Holy Trinity Secondary contributed to helping out other students across Canada.

The students were likely just happy enough to hand over the toonie so they could wear jeans to school that day. The dress down day at a Catholic high school is a commonly popular fundraising initiative where uniforms are mandatory.

When they tossed a toonie into that bucket, they likely underestimated the effect that the money has on another student's education.

That \$2,300 will go a long way.

The Toonies for Tuition initiative was launched in 2005 to help offset tuition costs at Catholic schools located in provinces that

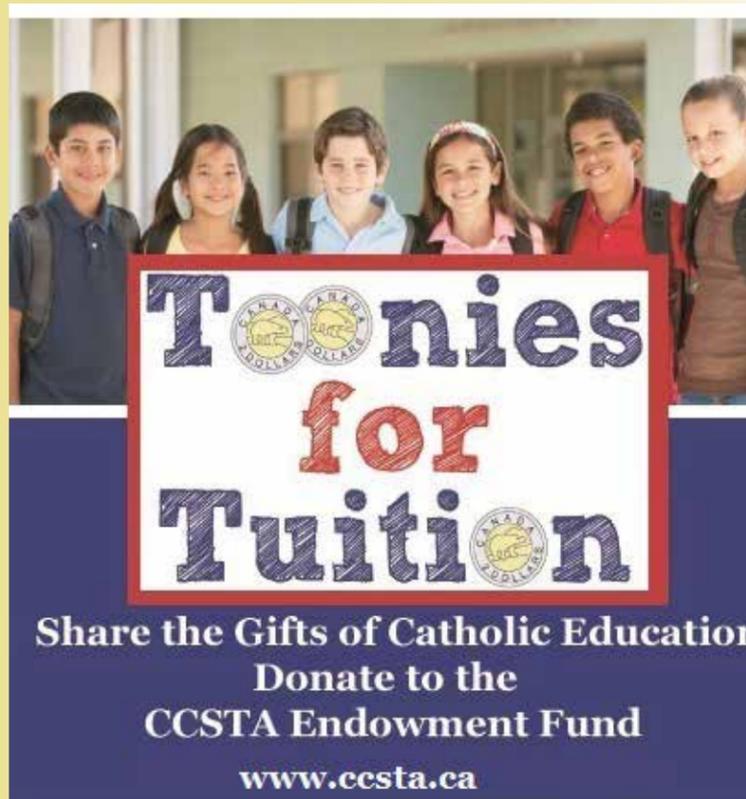
receive no to partial government funding.

Principals from across Canada annually submit nominations on behalf of their students who could use the financial support to help cover those tuition costs. The ultimate goal? To give more school-aged children the chance to attend a Catholic school.

The Toonies for Tuition trophy is handed out each year at the CCSTA AGM. It's given to the province that raises the most amount of money for Toonies for Tuition. Saskatchewan has taken home the hardware every year.

Yet Ontario has its eyes on the prize this year: more and more school boards have turned their attention to the cause and reaching out to give support. And even in partially funded provinces, the Toonies for Tuition initiative has a presence in the Catholic school fundraising calendars.

The trophy will be handed out in Yellowknife this June, and while the winning provincial contributor will earn bragging rights, ultimately the students remain the biggest winners.



La campagne Toonies for Tuition bat son plein

Qui se méritera le trophée TFF?

Au début mai, trois écoles du Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board en Ontario ont connu un vif succès en organisant une journée de tenue décontractée pour appuyer Toonies for Tuition. Cette initiative a rapporté 2 300\$.

Cela signifie que plus de 1 100 élèves des écoles St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary, St. Peter Secondary, et Holy Trinity Secondary ont contribué à venir en aide à d'autres élèves au Canada.

En lançant une pièce de deux dollars dans la cagnotte, ils sous-estimaient probablement l'impact de ce geste sur l'éducation d'un autre jeune. Ils étaient sans doute simplement satisfaits de pouvoir porter leurs jeans à l'école ce jour-là. La journée décon-

tractée représente une collecte de fonds populaire auprès des écoles secondaires catholiques où le port de l'uniforme est obligatoire.

Il reste que ce 2 300\$ sera fort utile.

Le projet Toonies for Tuition a été mis sur pied en 2005 pour alléger les frais d'inscription à l'école catholique dans les provinces où les subventions sont inexistantes ou seulement partielles.

À chaque année, des directions d'écoles de partout au Canada font demande au nom de ceux de leurs élèves qui pourraient bénéficier d'une aide financière. Et le but de tout ça? C'est d'offrir à plus d'enfants d'âge scolaire la possibilité de fréquenter l'école catholique.

Le trophée Toonies for Tuition est remis annuel-

lement lors de l'AGA de l'ACCEC. Il est décerné à la province qui amasse le plus de fonds pour Toonies for Tuition, et à chaque année, c'est la Saskatchewan qui remporte la palme.

Mais attention! L'Ontario est une aspirante sérieuse cette année: de plus en plus de conseils scolaires se tournent vers cette cause. Il y a même des écoles catholiques de provinces qui ne subventionnent que partiellement qui ajoutent Toonies for Tuition à leur calendrier de collectes de fonds.

Cette année, le trophée sera remis en juin prochain, à Yellowknife. Même si son récipiendaire se méritera le droit de se vanter, ce sont réellement les élèves qui en ressortiront les plus grands gagnants.

Provincial Reports

British Columbia

On behalf of the Catholic Independent Schools Committee in British Columbia (CISCBC), the west coast people extend greetings to you all!

The BC Catholic Independent School System is made up of five dioceses in the province. Each Diocesan School Board of Directors hires a Superintendent to oversee the Catholic Schools within that diocese. The Boards set policy and direction for the schools in their diocese, with a number of responsibilities being handed on to local School Councils/Education Committees. The Councils are responsible for local school policies, building and maintenance, establishing budgets, marketing and fundraising. Depending on the diocese, salaries and tuitions are set by the Board or the Council. Schools are funded 50 percent of the per student operating grant of the local public schools with the exception of students with special needs who are funded at the 100-percent level. There is no financial support from the government for capital expenditures and buildings. Additional revenues to operate the schools come from tuitions, donations, fundraising and parish subsidies. In order to get the 50 percent funding, schools must spend less per student than the public schools in their local area.



BC Ministry of Education

We are blessed that both the current government and the opposition fully supports “educational choice” in BC and see the “Face of Education” as both public and independent.

Hon. Mike Bernier was appointed the new Education Minister on July 30; he is the 8th Education Minister in the last 10 years. As an independent school graduate, he has a good understanding and appreciation for independent schools.

On August 28, 2015, the Ministry of Education announced a three-year plan to launch the new K-12 Curriculum and accompanying reporting and assessment practices for all schools in BC. The K-9 Curriculum was optional this year and is mandatory next year while the Grades 10-12 Curriculum will be optional in 2016/17 and mandatory the year after. Two days of additional professional development support is being provided this year and next year to support teachers with the implementation.

The picture related to per student operating grants remains bleak. In 2014-15, independent schools received on average \$10 less per student in Group 1 schools and \$6 less per student in Group 2 schools. The recalculated grant of 2015-16 was lower than expected and predicted. The public system student population increased, so as a result the overall per student costs decreased. This affects independent schools as, “independent school funding remains directly linked to the

average per student operating cost of the public school districts where independent schools are located” (Feb 2016 FISA Executive Director’s Report). A similar pattern is expected in 2016-17, thereby significantly increasing the financial challenges for all independent schools.

Legislation Affecting Independent Schools includes:

- The new Society Act received Royal Assent on May 14, 2015. The new Act affects all registered societies; they will have two years to update their constitution and bylaws in order to be compliant with the new Act.
- The Permissive Tax Legislation (that all school property be tax exempt) passed on September 28, 2015. Under the Community Charter Act, 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.) will be tax exempt for independent schools similar to public schools.

Others news from the Ministry includes: Skills Access Grants for Grade 10-12 students interested in pursuing the trades; four new scholarship and awards available to students and teachers to study abroad or international students to study in BC; #BCTECH Strategy as it relates to basic coding for all students, hands-on technology in the early years, and commitment to reliable internet access; Levels 1-3 ERASE Bullying training; Emergency Management training; and International Homestay Guidelines.

MyEd BC is the new data management system in BC. It is in its second year of implementation and as with any new system it has had its challenges; mostly with regard to transitioning data and with bandwidth (which affects accessibility for teachers during high traffic times).

The Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB) of the Ministry of Education has developed a new course called “Creating a Positive Learning Environment”. This course is offered by the Justice Institute and is intended to help new teachers understand their professional boundaries.

Federation of Independent Schools Association of BC (known as FISA BC)

“FISA BC’s mission is to protect parents’ right to choose the kind of education given to their children, and to safeguard the autonomy of independent schools. FISA BC was formed in 1966 after extensive discussion among the diverse independent schools in BC. Eleven years of subsequent political action resulted in 30 percent funding for operations in 1977. The Sullivan Commission in 1989 increased government funding from 30 percent of operating costs to 50 percent for Group 1 schools and 35 percent for Group 2 schools. In the intervening years, FISA BC has protected independent schools from erosion of government funding, procured full funding for special needs students, initiated Distance Learning, and strengthened statutory property tax exemption for independent schools.” (Dec 2015 FISA newsletter)

This year marked the 50th Anniversary of FISA BC. Approximately 5,100 educators gathered from around the province for a conference held on February 4-5, to mark this special occasion. We were blessed to have such top notch

keynote speakers such as: Daniel Pink, Chris Hatfield, Charles Fadel, Yong Zhao, Kimberly Mitchell, Alan November, Christopher Gaze and Amy Burvall.

The FISA BC Board meets monthly to address topics common to all independent schools in the province. In addition, various members give presentations, sit on a wide various provincial committees and dialogue with numerous organizations. The Catholic Independent Schools (CIS) group is one of the five associations within the FISA BC. Three CIS members are elected as representatives to the FISA BC Board and they ensure that the “Catholic” voice is heard.

Statistics published by the FISA BC indicate that there are 363 independent schools in BC accounting for approximately 80,800 students (14 percent of all BC students). Two hundred and ninety schools are members of FISA BC. There has been a steady increase in the independent enrolment since 1977 when the provincial portion was 4.3 percent. Twenty-seven percent of the independent school students attend the 77 Catholic schools in the Province. Independent schools receive approximately 6.3 percent of the Education Budget. FISA BC regularly receives requests from new independent school to join the Association.

This past year, the FISA BC:

- successfully lobbied government to ensure that independent schools remain property tax exempt. “Bill 29 was approved unanimously in the Legislature on September 30 and received Royal Assent on November 17, 2015” (Dec 2015 FISA BC Newsletter).
- is looking at an Independent School Policy on Protection from Discrimination. This is intended to be preventative and is a result of forced legislation in other provinces.
- began developing a general guidance document to support schools and/or school systems through the transition with the new Society Act.
- is engaging the government in discussion around alternative funding models, special needs funding for First Nation students, and access to 50% funding for all special purpose grants provided to the public system.

CISCBC (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 attend the first meeting of the year, held in November. The CISCBC is working on the development of a new strategic plan. The four new goals are:

- To have all members of our school communities be agents of evangelization.
- To infuse the new BC Curriculum with the Catholic Principles of Learning.
- To recruit, form, mentor and retain dynamic Catholic teachers and support staff.
- To increase the positive public profile of Catholic Schools across the province.

On behalf of all Catholic Schools in BC, we would like to thank the CCSTA for all that they do in support of Catholic Education in Canada!

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Alberta/NWT

Advocacy

In May of 2015, Alberta witnessed a significant change to the political makeup of the provincial legislature with the victory of Rachel Notley's New Democratic Party. ACSTA immediately encouraged its member boards to meet with their local MLAs in order to start developing relationships with the newly elected officials in government. Many of the MLAs were new to government and had to quickly learn about the many issues facing Albertans. To that end, ACSTA developed an information sheet titled "About ACSTA" and "Facts about Catholic Education in Alberta" to help trustees in their MLA meetings. The Elected Officers and Executive Director continue to meet with the Minister of Education, MLAs and stakeholder groups to discuss issues of Catholic Education important to our member boards.

On November 20, 2015 the Supreme Court of Canada issued Reasons for Decision on the matter of Caron v. Alberta SCC 56. The decision addressed whether Alberta was required "to enact, print and publish its laws and regulations in English and French". The Court decided that it was not required to do so.

On January 13, 2016, the Alberta Minister of Education released *Guidelines for Best Practices: Creating Learning Environments That Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities, and Gender Expressions*, as a resource or guideline to assist with creating and/or revising policies and practices relating to obligations under sections 16.1 and 45.1 of the School Act. The document includes indicators of best practices for respecting diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions, so that school authorities are more equipped to create welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments. School Boards were required to update and submit their policies by March 31, 2016.

Catholic school boards were encouraged to use the Safe and Caring Schools template (2012), the Life Framework (2014), the A Pastoral Approach - Gender Identity Expression resource (2016) and our legal counsel's review of the government's Guidelines to draft their policies. All members of ACSTA complied with the Minister's request to submit their relative policies, however to date the Minister has not made a response to the submissions.

The ACSTA executive continues to meet with the Minister of Education and other department of education officials to establish positive working relationships. ACSTA has also encouraged member boards to educate and inform local MLAs about the added value and history of Catholic Education including the importance of offering choice to parents in regard to their children's education through formal meetings and casual encounters.

ACSTA continues its strong relationship with the Western Bishops. His Excellency, Bishop Frederick Henry, Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary continues to serve as the liaison Bishop with ACSTA. The ACSTA executive and the Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories meet bi-annually to discuss issues concerning Catholic Education. ACSTA is grateful and very proud

to enjoy this essential relationship with the Sheppard's of our Faith for moral guidance.

Faith Development

The Most Rev. Mark Hagemoen, Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith, led the faith development portion of the ACSTA 2015 AGM & Convention. The theme was, *Medievals, Mystics and Millennials: engaging heart, mind & soul*.

The planning committee held a silent auction at the Convention to support the Toonies for Tuition program and Development and Peace. We are pleased to announce that \$2,714 was forwarded to the CCSTA Endowment fund for this important endeavor.

We also recently hosted the 2016 SPICE (April 28-May 1) and Blueprints (May 3-6) Retreats in Kananaskis, Alberta. SPICE (focused on classroom teachers and staff) and Blueprints (focused on administrators and Catholic education leaders) are the ACSTA's principal faith formation and community building events.

2016 SPICE Retreat – Keynote speaker Roy Petitfils addressed the theme Seeing With New Eyes.

2016 Blueprints Retreat – Keynote speaker Dr. Peter Feldmeier spoke on the topic Secular Challenges, Sacred Answers.

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, in partnership with the ACSTA, facilitated a three-day Workshop for the Development of Curricular Resources on July 2-4, 2015. A total of 18 educators representing nine Alberta Catholic School Divisions participated in the workshop. The participants produced 11 packages of cross-disciplinary mini unit plans aligned with the Alberta curriculum and adaptable for Catholic educators across the country. Here are links to the English and French lesson plans: www.dev.org/curricular and www.dev.org/curriculum.

Communications

The ACSTA continues to maintain constant contact with its member boards using social media and sending regular President's updates. Furthermore our Catholic Dimension newspaper continues to be published online, twice annually at <http://www.acsta.ab.ca/publications/catholic-dimension>.

At the beginning of the 2015/16 school year, ACSTA facilitated a gathering of key communication contacts from all member boards to discuss current issues in Catholic Education and to understand the importance of using common key messaging when responding. The session provided further opportunities to share communication resources among member boards and strengthened administrative relationships.

ACSTA recently hired a new Communications Specialist who will continue to identify and address opportunities to support the ACSTA's strategic priorities, advocacy plan, and communications plans. In addition to supporting the communications needs of ACSTA staff, Executive Officers and Board Officers, the Communications Specialist will also work to help improve the reach of its member boards 'Good News' stories with the assistance of the Catholic School Communicators Network, a group which was initiated by the ACSTA and meets regularly throughout the year.

Governance

In May of 2015, Dr. Garry Andrews facilitated an all-day session with the Board of Directors to develop a three-year strategic plan for the ACSTA.

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.

On November 14 and 15, 2015, the ACSTA held its Annual General Meeting. At the AGM, Red Deer Catholic Regional Services Trustee, Adriana LaGrange, was elected President and St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic School Regional Division Trustee, John Tomkinson, was elected Vice-President

The ACSTA adopted a new set of Bylaws at the AGM. As a follow up to this, the Board of Directors is now in the process of reviewing its policies.

In February, 2016, Dr. Garry Andrews assisted the ACSTA Board of Directors by facilitating the evaluations of Executive Director Dean Sarnecki and a self-evaluation of the board. The evaluations, which consisted of interviews with a number of members and the responses of all directors through a survey, were very successful.

If you have any questions or comments about ACSTA or our programs, please call 780/484-6209, email admin@acsta.ab.ca or check out our website at www.acsta.ab.ca or follow us on twitter @ACSTANews.

Saskatchewan

Theodore Court Case Update

After five weeks of trial, court was recessed on Dec. 11, 2015. The trial will be reconvened on May 9, 2016 in Yorkton. There have been seven weeks of trial set, with the final week beginning July 11, 2016.

SCSBA Communications Committee

The following recommendations from the Communications Committee were approved by the Board of Directors at the January meeting:

- That all Catholic Boards actively support the Faith in Our Students Campaign.
- That the SCSBA continues to employ a part-time Communications Coordinator for the 2016-17 school year.
- That all Catholic School Boards meet with their MLA's /candidates in the 2016 year to share material from the Faith in Our Students Campaign, including the video and the speaking notes as prepared by the Communications Committee.
- That all Catholic Boards share the video and speaking notes as prepared by the Communications Committee with their staff and School Community Councils.
- That all Catholic Boards provide a minimum of two "good news stories" to our Communication Coordinator during the 2015/16 school year.
- That all Catholic School divisions encourage their teachers to use the Faith Resource section on our web site and further that all school divisions contribute materials to update the resource whenever possible.
- That the SCSBA Communications Committee host a Provincial meeting for Communications Coordinators from all

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Catholic School Divisions on May 19, 2016 at 10:00 AM in Moose Jaw.

Grade 9-12 Catholic Studies Curriculum Development

Grades 9-12 Catholic Studies Draft Curricula are completed and have been presented to the Bishops for their final feedback.

We are anticipating the new Grades 9-12 Catholic Studies Curricula to be posted to the Ministry web site sometime later this spring.

Implementation plans for the new curricula will be delayed to September, 2017 because of the delay in posting the new curricula and the resource list to accompany the new programs.

The Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit (SPDU) is working on creating a list of resources for the new program, which we anticipate will be posted with the new curricula later this spring.

K-9 Religion Resource Development

The new Grade One Religion Program is being implemented in all Catholic School Divisions during the 2015/16 school year.

We have been informed by Pearson Canada that Grade Two and Grade Three will be ready for implementation in the 2016/17 school year. With this in mind, all school divisions are making plans for implementation of this new program.

Curriculum Permeation Project

The Catholic Education Coordinators/Consultants Association of Saskatchewan (CEHAS) has assumed responsibility for this resource. At their February meeting, CECAS members discussed a plan to create a survey to conduct an assessment of teacher usage of the resource materials.

The survey is intended to gather information related to how teachers are using these documents to support the permeation of our Catholic teachings.

Sister's Legacy Committee Update

The committee hosted a very successful unveiling ceremony in Regina on October 1, 2015, and help its wrap-up meeting on January 13, 2016. The video has been completed and all Catholic

School Divisions have received a copy of the CD.

The committee was pleased to provide the Archdiocese of Regina with an endowment fund to cover the cost of ongoing maintenance and insurance for the monument, which is now officially owned by the Archdiocese of Regina.

Sister Teresita Kambeitz has written an excellent article capturing the complete story of the Sister's Legacy project. This article is hosted on the SCSBA website.

Transgendered Resource Development Committee

At the request of the Education Committee, the SCSBA have formed a committee to help teachers and administrators provide support for students who are presenting themselves as transgendered individuals. On March 22, 2016, a memo was sent to all school divisions summarizing the work of the committee.

With the memo, the SCSBA committee completed its work. In order to support Catholic schools and Catholic school boards in fulfilling their shared obligation to promote the dignity, respect, and equity of students who are gender and sexually diverse, the SCSBA reminded all Catholic school divisions of the following documents:

- Ministry of Education Policy Statement: Student Alliance for Gender and Sexual Diversity in Saskatchewan Schools
- Ministry of Education Document: Deepening the Discussion: Gender and Sexual Diversity
- SCSBA Document: Pastoral Response to Transgender Students
- SCSBA Student Alliances for Gender and Sexual Diversity – Formation Protocol
- SCSBA Document: Caring for Students and Staff: Creating an Atmosphere of Trust and Respect Around Issues of Sexual Orientation

The committee was also pleased to report that the Saskatchewan Bishops reviewed the work of the committee and have provided support for the two documents created by the committee.

SCSBA 2016 Spring Seminar

The Annual SCSBA Spring Seminar was hosted by Holy Family RCSSD on April 22 – 23 at the Executive Royal Hotel in Regina.

- The theme of the seminar was "Living in Mercy". Our keynote speaker was Leah Perrault.
- We had 63 registered delegates and the feedback from the seminar was very positive.

SCSBA 2016 AGM and Convention

The 2016 SCSBA AGM and Convention will be hosted by Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools on Nov. 4-6, 2016. The convention will take place at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel in Saskatoon with further details pending.

Catholic School Board Trustee Elections

The Catholic School Board Trustee Elections will be held on Oct. 24, 2016.

Manitoba

Enrollment

As of September 30, 2016, Manitoba's Catholic schools reported to Government an enrollment of 5,064 students (K-12), which was comprised of 3,413 in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, 1,448 in the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface, and 203 in the Archeparchy of Winnipeg. This is a drop of 15 students from the previous year and we are optimistic that our previous growth pattern will continue in the future.

As we only receive partial government funding, we have to be careful to balance operational costs and tuition rates so that Catholic education can be affordable to a wide range of families.

Gonzaga Middle School

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 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 be 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 is currently undergoing major renovations. This is the second Nativity Miguel model school to open in Canada, the first one being Mother Theresa Middle School in Regina. A recruiting and admissions plan involving community groups and agencies active in the inner city was developed. The first staff has been hired as they prepare for September. 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 socio-economic disadvantage – helping to change lives through education, one student at a time.

Board of Consultors

The central organization of Catholic Schools in Manitoba is under the direction of the Bishops; there is no central school board. Each school has a separate board of directors. The Archdiocese of Winnipeg operates the Manitoba Catholic Schools Office through an agreement with the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface. The Director of Education is responsible directly to the Bishops. The Catholic



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Schools Office provides administrative and support services to all Catholic schools in the province. The Archbishop of Winnipeg, Most Reverend Richard Gagnon set up a committee to review the history of the central organization and supports provided to Catholic schools. The mandate of the committee is to look at ways that the current system might be improved within the current governance model and in the spirit of cooperation with the other dioceses. The recommendation of the committee is to create a Board of Consultors to advise the Archbishop in fulfilling his responsibilities for Catholic Education. A meeting with the Archbishop of Saint Boniface, Most Reverend Albert LeGatt and his Advisory Council has been set up for June with the possibility that the new structure would also support the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface.

New Government

Manitoba elected a new Progressive Conservative Government in April under the leadership of Brian Pallister. We look forward to working with the Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools (MFIS) in building a strong relationship with the new Government and Education Minister, Ian Wishart. The original funding agreement for independent schools was negotiated with the Progressive Conservative Government of Gary Filmon, MFIS, and Manitoba Catholic Schools.

A condition of the funding agreement was that Manitoba Catholic Schools drop their legal challenges to full funding of a separate Catholic School system based on the Manitoba Act of 1870. The second funding agreement, also negotiated with the Filmon Government increased funding to 50 percent of the total cost of educating a public school student.

The support grant amount is based on a formula of actual costs in public divisions so there is a two year time frame. In the 2016/17 school year, our provincial support grant will be \$5,545 per full time student which represents 50 percent of the cost of educating our students if they were in public divisions in 2014/15. We also receive a textbook grant of \$60 per student and full funding for Level II and III special needs students on a case by case basis. Prior to the funding agreements, Manitoba Catholic Schools did not receive support grants from the Government of Manitoba. The funding agreements recognize the independence of our schools, and there were originally few requirements from the Minister of Education. This changed under the previous New Democratic Party Government of Greg Selinger. The Minister of Education continued to add ministerial requirements our schools have to follow even though they are not public schools or fully funded separate schools.

We believe that because we only receive partial funding that the independence of our schools should be respected, especially in terms of questions of faith. It is our hope that the new Government will recognize our independence and respect our contribution to education in Manitoba.

Professional Development

Manitoba Catholic Schools was pleased to partner with the Western Conference of Catholic Religious Educators in sponsoring their annual conference in Winnipeg this past November. All early/ middle years teachers and high school

religion teachers attended a one day session that included keynotes by Dr. Josephine Lombardi (Families as Soil: Understanding the Influences that Shape Individuals and Families) and Fr. Eugene O'Reilly, C.Ss.R. (Wasting or Drifting Away in Margaritaville) as well as many workshops.

Ontario

During the 2015-16 school year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association focused on many initiatives that directly served to promote and protect the province's strong and vital publicly funded Catholic school system.

The following is a brief highlight of some of the key developments in 2015-16.

OCSTA Elections

At the recent April 2016 OCSTA AGM and Conference, elections were held for the OCSTA Board positions of President, Vice President and OCSTA Representative to the CCSTA Board. Following are the election results:

- President: Patrick J. Daly (Hamilton-Wentworth CDSB)
- Vice President: Beverley Eckensweiler (Bruce-Grey CDSB)
- OCSTA Representative to the CCSTA Board: Thomas Thomas (Dufferin-Peel CDSB).
- Outgoing president, Kathy Burtnik assumes the position of Past President on the OCSTA Board.

The Association wishes to recognize and thank former Vice President, Bob Schreder and Past President Marino Gazzola for their service and dedication during their terms on the OCSTA Board.

The following trustees were appointed to regional director positions for the 2016-18 term:

- Region 6 (Toronto CDSB): Ann Andrachuk and Michael Del Grande
- Region 7 (Dufferin-Peel CDSB): Mario Pascucci and Thomas Thomas
- Region 8 (York CDSB): Carol Cotton
- Region 12 (Ottawa CSB): Mark Mullan

The terms for the remaining elected regional directors on the board will expire in 2017.

OCSTA's full board consists of the president, vice president, past president and 15 additional trustees elected or appointed from 12 regions.

Labour

2015 was a significant year for education in Ontario. The new School Boards Collective Bargaining Act (SBCBA) enacted by the province in 2014, formally established a central process for bargaining certain collective agreement issues at a provincial level.

The OCSTA board of directors created a Labour Relations Committee where trustees provided direction for the negotiation of the first central

collective agreements with all teacher and education worker unions.

In recent weeks, a tentative memorandum of settlement of provincial terms and conditions of employment for Principals/Vice Principals was reached and is pending ratification by CDSBs (as of the time of the writing of this report).

The SBCBA also requires negotiation of local collective agreement terms and school boards are in process with those negotiations. OCSTA's labour department staff leads are providing support to local boards during these negotiations.

Health and Physical Education Curriculum

OCSTA's president and executive director worked closely with the Institute for Catholic Education in the final review and positioning of resources developed to support the Ministry of Education's revised Health and Physical Education curriculum. The curriculum had generated some concern among certain parent groups having issues with the age appropriateness of some material to be introduced into the curriculum.

The informational resources and supplemental educator documents developed by ICE focused on the facts about the content of the revised curriculum, 90 per cent of which was unchanged and part of the existing and successful Family Life Religious Education curriculum. By making the resource material widely accessible to parents and the wider community, well ahead of the roll out of the HPE curriculum, expectations were better managed and anxiety lessened.

Community Hubs

The Ontario government has made the establishment of Community Hubs a province-wide priority, one that focuses on the ways in which communities can make efficient use of public assets. This may take the form of a facility (community hub) that houses various agencies and a fully operating school. Given that school boards are owners of significant facilities in communities across Ontario, the Community Hubs Advisory panel consulted extensively with public, French and Catholic school boards.

Following a fulsome discussion with OCSTA members during fall 2015 Regional Meetings,



L.-R. OCSTA President, Patrick Daly; Minister of Education, The Hon. Liz Sandals; The Most Rev., Douglas Crosby, Bishop of Hamilton; Speaker of the House, The Hon. Dave Levac.

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OCSTA collected the perspectives, concerns and opportunities presented by Catholic trustees during these discussion sessions. While the notion of Community Hubs is well received, Catholic school trustees want to ensure that the main mandate of Catholic school boards (to deliver quality Catholic education) is not weakened by efforts to accommodate Community Hubs.

The perspectives of Catholic school boards on this topic were included in an OCSTA brief to the Community Hubs Advisory panel. A second "joint" brief was also prepared reflecting the concerns and ideas for Community Hubs, shared by Catholic, French and public school trustees.

Catholic Education Day at Queen's Park

For the first time in recent memory, MPPs gave a standing ovation in the Legislative Chamber to acknowledge the representatives of Ontario's publicly funded Catholic school system, many of whom were present in the Members' Gallery on March 9th, the date of the Queen's Park Lobby Day for Catholic Education.

This annual initiative is coordinated by FACE – which stands for Friends and Advocates for Catholic Education. FACE is a joint initiative created by: OCSTA, the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario and the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA).

The recognition received by FACE partners during Lobby Day is reflective of the positive relationships developed at the local and provincial levels and reinforced through the support and initiatives launched by FACE in recent years.

The FACE Lobby Day effort consists of teams of Catholic trustees, teachers and bishops meeting with various MPPs throughout the day to discuss the value and contribution of Catholic education to the life of this province. The goal of each meeting is to raise awareness about the good news of Catholic education and to receive confirmation from MPPs that they will support/continue to support publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario.

Eighteen meetings were held throughout the day and more than 40 MPPs (including ministers) joined FACE representatives and guests for a Catholic Education Reception in the Legislative Dining Room that evening. All three major parties addressed guests at this reception, most notably the Minister of Education, Liz Sandals who delivered a well-received greeting that included an emphatic recognition and endorsement of her government's strong support of Ontario's successful, publicly funded Catholic school system.

Another highlight of this year's Lobby Day was the participation of several students from local high schools who brought art for display and for discussion with MPPs and other guests. Completing the program for the evening were exceptional music performances by students from the St. Michael's Choir School (Toronto CDSB).

Catholic Education Week: May 1 – 6, 2016

As this year has been declared by Pope Francis as the "Holy Year of Mercy" and the "Holy Door" at the Vatican was opened on December 8 to evoke the concept of forgiveness, the Catholic Education Week committee thought it apt to choose "Opening Doors of Mercy" as this year's theme.

Throughout the year (from December 8, 2015 to

November 20, 2016) there will be a series of jubilee celebrations on the theme of mercy for teenagers, deacons, the sick and disabled, prisoners, catechists and clergy.

Promotional initiatives in celebration of Catholic Education Week include:

- Creation of a 4-minute video highlighting how mercy is demonstrated in CDSBs across the province. This initiative was developed and produced by the provincial Catholic student trustee leadership team. The video can be viewed at: https://youtu.be/jJUWVg_v7Kg?list=PLto1VDXqXYlOrGz47Q6jEr6VPXYc5ySeA
- Video recorded message by Ontario's Bishops – view on OCSTA's website at: <http://www.ocsta.on.ca/ocsta/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Greetings-from-Ontarios-Bishops-2.pdf>
- Distribution of the Catholic Education Resource kits to every CDSB – kits include: prayers, reflections, readings, class activities, resource lists and the Catholic Education Week song which was written, performed and recorded by teacher Nancy Bodsworth (Dufferin-Peel CDSB). The entire kit can be downloaded from the URL: www.goodnewsforall.ca
- An webpage listing activities at CDSBs across Ontario during Catholic Education Week: <http://www.ocsta.on.ca/resources/catholic-education-week-resources/catholic-education-week-activities-in-ontario/>
- The Catholic Education Week news release to promote the event to media: <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/theme-of-mercy-launches-catholic-education-week-in-ontario-577418651.html>

AFOCSC

Concours vidéo Vivre sa bonté à travers la foi

L'AFOCSC est en voie de développer un concours vidéo à l'intention des élèves fréquentant une école catholique de langue française. Il est prévu que le concours soit divisé en deux parties; une pour les élèves de la 4e à la 8e année et l'autre pour les élèves de la 9e à la 12e année. Ce concours répondra à deux axes stratégiques de notre planification soit l'axe de la fidélisation et l'axe catholicité. Le concours a été présenté et adopté par les membres du conseil d'administration lors d'une audio conférence qui a eu lieu début février. Avant de lancer le concours, il a été décidé que l'AFOCSC consulte les élèves-conseillères et élèves-conseillers scolaires lors du prochain congrès qui aura lieu en mai prochain. Suite à la rétroaction de ce groupe, il est prévu que le concours soit lancé dans toutes les écoles catholiques de langue française dès la rentrée scolaire 2016.

Relations de travail

Au moment de la rédaction de ce rapport, l'AFOCSC a conclu avec succès la composante centrale avec tous les groupes d'employés. Des ratifications et des discussions se poursuivent au niveau local.

Suite aux ententes centrales conclues avec l'ensemble des membres syndiqués, plusieurs groupes de travail et comités ont été institués afin de répondre à du langage spécifique découlant de ces ententes. Le personnel de l'AFOCSC ainsi que des représentantes et représentants avec des expertises selon les dossiers nous représentent à ces groupes de travail et comités. Le but de tous ces groupes de travail est d'assurer une mise en œuvre harmonieuse des ententes centrales. L'AFOCSC remercie ses conseils membres de lui prêter des membres pour siéger à ces comités, leurs expertises sont très appréciées.

Fiducies

Les employés syndiqués, enseignants et personnel de soutien, avaient opté de créer une fiducie pour gérer leurs avantages sociaux à l'intérieur de laquelle ils auraient un plus grand contrôle. Donc, pour ne pas laisser les employés non-syndiqués, c.-à-d. de soutien et de l'administration et groupe des directions/directions-adjointes, orphelins dans ce contexte il a fallu créer une autre fiducie. Ceci constitue un terrain inconnu pour la plupart qui devra être surveillé par toutes les parties en cause.

Le Règlement 17

À Queen's Park, le 22 février dernier, a eu lieu un événement historique. C'est en cette journée que la première ministre de l'Ontario s'est excusée auprès de la communauté franco-ontarienne pour le Règlement 17, qui avait fait son apparition en 1912 sous un gouvernement conservateur, et dont le premier ministre était Sir James Whitney.

Rappelons-nous que le Règlement 17 a causé des torts irréparables aux francophones qui habitaient la province à cette époque, mais aussi aux générations futures. Ce règlement a été initié, car, à ce moment de notre histoire, plusieurs francophones du Québec s'étaient installés dans la région de l'Est ontarien. Par mesure de protection des droits de la majorité linguistique, le gouvernement de l'époque a voulu interdire l'enseignement dans la langue de Molière, après la deuxième année. Le gouvernement avait aussi menacé de couper les subventions pour les écoles et d'enlever le brevet d'enseignement aux enseignantes dans le cas où les inspecteurs suspectaient que l'enseignement se faisait en français.

L'AFOCSC devient membre de la NCEA

À sa réunion de mars le C.A. a adopté une résolution que l'AFOCSC adhère à la "National



La Première ministre de l'Ontario, Kathleen Wynne, présente des excuses pour le Règlement 17. Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne apologizes for Regulation 17. (Photo: CBC)

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Catholic Education Association” pour une période d’un an après laquelle le directeur général doit soumettre un rapport au CA afin de déterminer si l’AFOCSC continuera à adhérer à cette organisation.

Mgr Damphousse à Sault-Ste-Marie

C’est le 13 janvier dernier qu’ont eu lieu l’installation et la messe d’inauguration du Ministère épiscopal de Mgr Damphousse au Diocèse de Sault-Ste-Marie où il remplace Mgr Jean-Louis Plouffe qui avait pris sa retraite. Mgr Damphousse, qui demeure l’évêque répondant de l’AFOCSC, a été muté du diocèse d’Alexandria-Cornwall. Les gens de Sault-Ste-Marie sont très heureux de l’accueillir dans leur région.

Budget - Financer l’éducation en 2016 -2017

En mars dernier, la ministre de l’Éducation, l’honorable Liz Sandals, a dévoilé les subventions de base (SBE) pour les élèves pour la prochaine année scolaire, soit 2016-2017. L’an prochain, les soixante-douze conseils scolaires recevront 22,9 milliards de dollars en financement, une augmentation de 600 millions de dollars comparativement à l’an dernier. Selon la ministre, l’augmentation vise l’harmonisation avec les nouvelles conventions collectives et des postes de responsables de l’éducation des Premières Nations, des Métis et des Inuits.

De plus, dans son annonce, le ministère annonce qu’il mettra en œuvre les recommandations émanant du groupe de travail sur les carrefours communautaires afin de regrouper les services en un seul endroit et de mieux utiliser les lieux publics pour répondre aux besoins des Ontariens et Ontariennes. Un carrefour communautaire peut être une école, un centre de quartier ou un autre lieu public qui offre ou intègre en un même endroit divers services dans des domaines comme l’éducation, les soins de santé et les services sociaux. Chaque carrefour est aussi unique que la collectivité qu’il sert. Pour réaliser cet objectif, le ministère de l’Éducation souhaite éliminer les obstacles au regroupement des services et en modifiant le processus que les conseils doivent suivre lorsqu’ils vendent ou louent des écoles.

Le plan financier du gouvernement misera beaucoup sur de nouveaux investissements dans les infrastructures. Selon le gouvernement, ces mesures assureront des emplois de qualité pour les gens dans le secteur de la construction. En matière d’infrastructures pour les écoles élémentaires et secondaires de la province, le gouvernement de l’Ontario prévoit des investissements de plus de 11 milliards de dollars pour la construction de nouvelles écoles et la réfection d’écoles existantes. Ces investissements serviront surtout à financer des projets de construction dans les secteurs à forte croissance au niveau d’effectifs. Il est clair que l’AFOCSC revendiquera sa juste part de ce financement, car il y a des besoins criants partout en province.

Le XVIII congrès annuel - 13 au 15 mai, 2016 - Toronto

Tout est fin prêt pour cette activité qui est toujours très appréciée et bien courue. Le programme cette année inclut:

- Allocution de Son Excellence Mgr Collins, Cardinal de Toronto
- Janine Griffore, Sous-ministre adjointe Division de l’éducation en langue française, de l’éducation autochtone et de la recherche pour la Ministre Sandals
- Conférence d’ouverture donnée par le Père Thomas Rosica, qui nous entretiendra sur le Synode sur la Famille.
- Soirée retrouvailles
- Ateliers au choix
- Soirée banquet-croisière à bord du Northern Spirit

Le 9e Prix d’excellence en éducation catholique sera remis lors du banquet du samedi soir 14 mai à bord du “Northern Spirit” à un conseiller ou conseillère scolaire pour une contribution exceptionnelle à l’éducation catholique francophone.

Événements à venir

- 9 au 11 juin, 2016 - AGA et congrès de l’ACCEC/CCSTA à Yellowknife, TNW: L’AFOCSC sera hôte du congrès 2017 de l’ACCEC, en collaboration avec le CSDCCS et le conseil anglophone catholique de la région de Niagara Falls. C’est la première fois que l’ACCEC ou un de nos conseils participent activement à la planification de cette activité.
- 26, 27 et 28 mai 2017 - Le CSDC des Aurores Boréales accueille les membres de l’AFOCSC à Thunder Bay pour l’AGA de l’AFOCSC.

AFOCSC

Video Contest “Living one’s goodness through faith”

AFOCSC is currently developing a video contest for students attending a French catholic school. The contest will have two divisions, one for Grades 4 to 8 and the other for Grades 9 to 12. The contest’s aim corresponds to two goals of our strategic plan; namely loyalty and catholicity. The contest and its purpose were presented to AFOCSC’s board members for approval during an audio conference this past February. Before launching the contest it was decided to consult with the student trustees at this year’s AGM in May. Following the response from the group, it is anticipated that the contest will be officially launched in all our schools for the beginning of the 2016 school year.

Labour Relations

At the time of writing, AFOCSC has successfully concluded the provincial or central component of negotiations and discussions with all its employee groups. There are still discussions ongoing at the local level dealing with local issues.

Following the central agreements with the unionized employee groups, several work groups have been constituted to respond to specific lan-

guage in clauses contained in these agreements. Our own staff as well as expert staff from our boards have been assigned to cover the various areas requiring their expertise on the work group committees. The object is to assure a harmonious implementation of the central agreements.

AFOCSC thanks its member boards who have so generously provided staff to populate these committees. Their expertise is most appreciated.

Fiduciaries

A fiduciary was set up for the non-union staff including administration and the principals/vice-principals for the benefits coverage which became necessary after the teacher and unionized support staff had negotiated their own fiduciaries. This is new territory for everyone and will require close scrutiny as we move forward.

Regulation 17

A long awaited event occurred last February 22 when, in the Ontario Legislature, Premier Kathleen Wynne offered the province’s apologies for Regulation 17 which was instituted in 1912 under the then conservative government led by Sir James Whitney. It needs to be noted that the two opposition parties also offered their apologies.

This regulation caused irreparable harm to the francophone community then, and still has repercussions felt to this very day. The government felt threatened by an influx of francophones from Québec into the eastern Ontario region. As a pretext to protect the English majority linguistic rights, the government of the day sought to forbid instruction in French after the 2nd grade. The government even went so far as to threaten to withdraw the teaching certificate from teachers suspected by the inspectors of contravening the regulation.

AFOCSC becomes a member of NCEA

At its meeting this past March, the Board of directors adopted a resolution to adhere to the National Catholic Education Association for a period of one year after which a determination will be made as to the continuance of membership following an evaluation report by the executive director.

Msrgr Damphousse to Sault-Ste-Marie

Msrgr Marcel Damphousse, AFOCSC’s chaplain who was assigned from the Alexandria-Cornwall diocese to the Sault-Ste-Marie diocese was officially installed at his inaugural mass last January 13th, 2016. The population of his new diocese are very happy to welcome Msrgr Damphousse as they had been without a bishop since the retirement of Msrgr Jean-Louis Plouffe.

Budget: Financing Education 2016-2017

Last March, the Minister of Education, the Honourable Liz Sandals, announced that Ontario is increasing its investment in students and schools across the province by providing \$22.9 billion in education funding through the 2016-17 Grants for Student Needs - an increase of approximately \$300 million from

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last year for the seventy two school boards in the province. The funding includes an increased investment of over \$7 million for First Nation, Métis, and Inuit education.

The government has committed to developing community hubs in an effort to bring services together in one place and to make better use of public spaces to serve Ontarians. A community hub can be a school, a neighbourhood centre or another public space that offers co-located or integrated services such as education, health care and social services. Each hub is as unique as the community it serves. The government will encourage the establishment of hubs in schools by expanding the process that school boards must follow when selling or leasing schools. This will help unlock the value of schools as public assets and support communities with improved services.

The government intends to invest in infrastructure. According to the government, this will represent more than 11 billion dollars for the construction of new schools and the renovation of existing schools at both the elementary and the secondary levels. This investment will enable the financing of projects in high growth areas. It is clear that AFOCSC will make a case for its fair share of this money because of pressing needs in many parts of the province.

AFOCSC's 18th AGM - May 13-15

Everything is set for another event that is always appreciated and well-attended. The program this year will include;

- Cardinal Collins who will address the attendees
- Opening conference by Father Thomas Rosica on the Synod on the Family
- Janine Griffore, Assistant Deputy Minister French Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research on behalf of Education minister Sandals
- Evening of renewing acquaintances
- Banquet aboard the Northern Spirit
- Choice of workshops

The Prize of excellence in catholic education, 9th edition, will be awarded during the banquet on Saturday May 14th, to a sitting or retired trustee for exceptional contribution to catholic education in the French language system in Ontario.

Upcoming events

- CCSTA/ACCEC AGM 2016; June 9-11 in Yellowknife, NWT
- CCSTA's 2017 AGM in the Niagara area: AFOCSC will collaborate with the Niagara area English Catholic board to co-host CCSTA's 2017 AGM and convention. This is the first time that AFOCSC will be directly involved in the organization of this annual event.
- May 26-28: Le conseil catholique Aurores boréales in Thunder Bay area will welcome AFOCSC members at its AGM in 2017.

RCISA, AR

Financial Standing

The financial situation remains challenging in the Atlantic region but to this point all schools are managing reasonably well. There is obviously great support within the school community - parents continue to register their children and year to year the total registration remains stable with some modest increases in recent years. Some schools expect the same trend for the 2016-2017 school year; in contrast, the two schools in Newfoundland Labrador are anxious to see whether or not the recent harsh provincial budget will have a negative impact on enrollment. Support from within the wider community continues to provide assistance in meeting capital and operating costs. Needless to say, every conceivable project is engaged in order to balance the budgets.

Bursary Demands

Given the financial reality of the region, each school is called upon to provide bursary monies to many families and each year the demand grows. Again this coming year the number of applications is expected to increase. A whole variety of activities are held to meet these demands and thankfully most students are helped at least partially. In this regard, CCSTA's bursary program is of vital importance to our schools. This association appreciates the efforts by the trustees and their boards throughout the country who commit to the program.

Catholicity in Schools

Critical for the schools of the Atlantic region is the "Catholic" aspect of education, though catholicity gets expressed uniquely in each school community. As independent schools founded on the religious commitment more than anything else of parents or religious congregations, great care is taken by the school boards and school administration to ensure students have ample opportunities to see the vital connection between learning and their religious outlook.

One strongly promoted aspect in these schools is the outreach that students need to make with the wider local community as well as in foreign lands. As one chief administrator put it in response to the objectives of this year's World Catholic Education Day and drawing on the Gospel of Matthew: "We are not tasked with keeping our lamp under a bushel" (see Matt.5: 14-16).

Three of the schools draw on local parish priests to provide parish or church support; students participate in visits to the school chapel as well as to nearby churches. Two schools draw on the charism of the religious congregation under which the school operates - the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, and the Jesuits.

These two schools are also privileged to be part of the worldwide associations of their respective congregations. Finally, all schools have the sup-

port of their local Bishop without whose approval the schools would not be members of this association.

Toonies for Tuition

Schools are encouraged to participate with the Toonies campaign as well as World Catholic Education Day, the newsletters, updates. All schools are updated on CCSTA news including the annual convention. That there is little or no participation is more a reflection of pressing local issues and financial constraint than any disinterest in national affairs.

A Successful CCSTA AGM in St. John's

As the host of the 2015 convention and AGM, St. Bonaventure's College offers a sincere thank you to all who attended the very successful gathering in St. John's, and offers best wishes to Yellowknife Catholic and to all who attend this year's convention. This AGM marks the completion of Margaret Savidge's term as the RCISA, AR representative on the CCSTA Board.

Enrollment and Outreach

Boards are active in engaging parents as they seek to ensure a healthy student enrollment for the 2015 - 2016 school year. Enrollment plays a major role in the financial viability of an independent school. Each year every effort is made to get out information to as wide an audience of parents as possible. Nor is the commitment of the parents of current students taken for granted. Any decline in student numbers can result in added stress on teacher employment, supplies, and programs. This year, to take but one example of the effort to attract new students to our schools, Divine Mercy Catholic School in Saint John is going out to every parish in the city. The other schools are undertaking similar initiatives. At this point in the campaign, the projected 2015-16 enrollment is positive for all schools.

The association continues in contact with two other small schools in Nova Scotia: Highland School of Learning in Antigonish and St. Joseph's Academy in Truro. Both schools are currently reviewing information about RCISA, AR and, it is hoped, they will consider becoming members. At the very least, the association will provide a communication link for those schools with the other schools in the region, as well as to the national scene.

World Catholic Education Day

May 14, provided schools with the opportunity to highlight the world-wide web of Catholic schools. The poster and suggestions provided through the CCSTA website are most helpful.

RCISA, AR is appreciative of CCSTA's Toonies for Tuition campaign and encourages all schools to participate in the fund raising. Likewise, much appreciated are the bursaries provided to students in our schools.

Chaplain's Corner

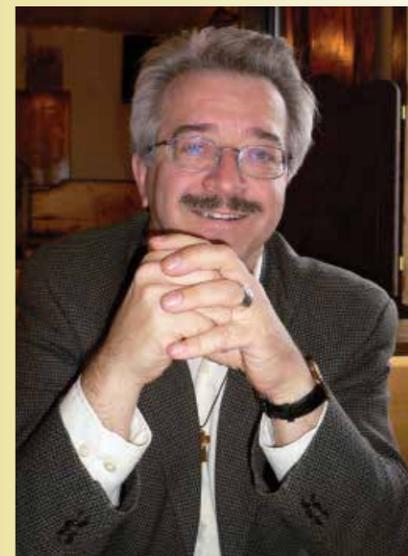
The Gospel's Solidarity is Quite Alive!

As I am writing this text, fire is still raging in Alberta's forest, the residents of Fort McMurray and surroundings are still evacuated, and from all corners of Canada, solidarity is being expressed. Who would dare to affirm that the Gospel solidarity does not exist?

Through this tragedy Canadians demonstrate clearly their compassion and solidarity. Some of them express it in the name of their humanity; others are motivated by their faith. We cannot, however, totally discard the possibility that the Canadian society, weaved in the web of Christianity, has manifested consciously or unconsciously the Gospel's values as it was challenged by this tragedy.

The great number of those evacuated welcomed by pure strangers reminds me of the phrase in the Gospel "Knock and the door shall be opened". The generosity expressed by Canadians actualises Jesus's invitation "if someone takes your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either", or portrays in a modern way the story of "the multiplication of the bread". One can practically perceive in such generosity the pooling of one's assets done by the First Christians revealed in the Acts of the Apostles.

We often criticise our secular society. We fault its overbearing individualism and its disregard for others as revealed in the expression, "me, myself and I". This tragedy demonstrates clearly that Christian values are still alive in our society. We can still assert with Jesus: "Blessed are those who weep, they will be consoled, and blessed are those who hunger and thirst, they will be satisfied."



Fr. Rémi Lessard
CCSTA Chaplain/Aumônier

La solidarité évangélique est bien vivante !

Au moment où je vous écris ce message, le feu fait toujours rage dans les forêts albertaines, les résidents de Fort McMurray et des environs sont encore évacués et de partout au Canada se multiplient les gestes de solidarité ! Qui oserait affirmer qu'il n'existe plus de solidarité évangélique ?

Cette tragédie révèle assurément la compassion et la générosité des Canadiens et Canadiennes. Certains l'expriment au nom de leur humanité et d'autres au nom de leur foi. On ne peut cependant pas écarter la possibilité que la société canadienne, tissée à même une toile chrétienne, manifeste consciemment ou inconsciemment devant cette tragédie, des valeurs évangéliques.

Le nombre de gens accueillis par de purs étrangers me rappelle le texte de l'Évangile « Frappe et l'on t'ouvrira ». La générosité exprimée actualise la parole de Jésus, « Si l'on te demande ta tunique, donne lui aussi ton manteau » ou encore, elle nous donne une image moderne de la « multiplication des pains. » On croirait percevoir une véritable mise en commun à la manière des premiers chrétiens dans les Actes des Apôtres.

Nous critiquons souvent notre société dite séculière. On lui reproche l'individualisme à outrance et le repliement sur soi manifesté par l'expression « me, myself and I ». Cette tragédie nous démontre clairement que les valeurs chrétiennes sont encore véhiculées et vécues dans notre société. Nous avons encore raison de dire avec Jésus: « Bienheureux ceux qui pleurent, ils seront consolés, bienheureux ceux qui ont faim et soif, ils seront rassasiés ! »

The 2017 CCSTA AGM is set for Niagara Falls!

What's not to love about Niagara?

Taking place in Niagara, Ontario, the 2017 CCSTA AGM will welcome delegates to one of the world's most popular destinations.

The 2017 AGM will showcase Niagara's gorgeous landscape, tourism attractions and vibrant Catholic School Community.

Come join us in Niagara next year!



Photo: Tripadvisor

Please mark these dates on
your planning calendar:

• June 1-3, 2017
CCSTA AGM/Convention
Niagara Falls, Ontario

• June 7-8, 2018
CCSTA AGM/Convention
Kelowna, BC

Stay up to date on the AGM details by visiting the CCSTA website at www.ccsta.ca.