

# Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association

## Association canadienne des commissaires d'écoles catholiques

*CCSTA*



June/Juin 2017

CCSTA NEWSLETTER/ COMMUNIQUÉ DE L'ACCEC

[www.ccsta.ca](http://www.ccsta.ca)

## Bienvenue à Niagara Falls!!

L'Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques, le Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir et le Conseil scolaire catholique de district du Niagara vous attendent à Niagara Falls, du 1er au 3 juin au Marriott on the Falls, pour l'ACCEC 2017. En ce moment, les partenaires travaillent très fort pour vous offrir un congrès et une AGA 2017 des plus remarquables.

Sous le thème «Grandir ensemble dans le vignoble du Seigneur», le congrès se déroulera dans un site enchanteur, reconnu mondialement, là où se trouvent les majestueuses chutes Niagara. La région est reconnue pour ses vignobles de renommée internationale, pour ses restaurants aux menus gastronomiques et surtout comme des gens accueillants et chaleureux.

Notre conférencier spécial, son Éminence, le Cardinal Thomas Collins parlera au sujet de l'importance de la famille et du rôle du système scolaire catholique dans l'appui aux parents afin d'élever leurs enfants dans la grande tradition de la famille catholique imprégné de foi tout en demeurant fidèle à l'engagement du baptême tenant compte des réalités et des influences des années 2000. Et qui sait, il partagera possiblement certaines expériences qu'il a vécu à Rome avec le Pape François.

Nous aborderons des thèmes qui se rapportent à notre réalité dont l'inclusion, la promotion de l'éducation catholique, la construction de relations durables avec nos communautés, avec les Premières Nations, les Métis et les Inuits. Et vous ne voudrez surtout pas manquer notre discussion du vendredi en après-midi au sujet du cas de cour Theodore et du jugement apporté.

Notez bien – L'AGA de l'ACCEC 2017 sera écologiquement redevable. Cela veut dire que vous recevrez un courriel indiquant le lien au site Web où vous pourrez trouver tous les documents pour l'AGA du samedi.

Vous pouvez ainsi imprimer le document ou le sauvegarder sur votre ordinateur. Soyez donc prêts à recevoir un message du comité à ce sujet autour du 25 mai.

Niagara, l'endroit par excellence pour vous accueillir lors de l'ACCEC 2017. Soyez de la rencontre pour prier, apprendre et s'amuser. Et cela, tous ensemble dans cette belle famille qu'est l'Église catholique.



## Welcome to Niagara Falls!

L'Association Franco-Ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques, the Niagara Catholic District School Board and Le Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir are waiting for you to join us in Niagara Falls from June 1st to the 3rd at the Marriott on the Falls for the annual CCSTA 2017 convention and AGM. Currently, the three partners are working very hard to offer you a remarkable convention and AGM, with an opportunity to tour this beautiful region.

Under the theme "Growing together in the vineyard of Christ", the conference will take place in an enchanting world-renowned site beside the world famous falls, in the midst of internationally renowned vineyards and fabulous restaurants; where welcoming and friendly people are located.

One of our keynote speakers, His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins, will be speaking about the importance of the family, and how the school is called to support parents in teaching/raising of their children in Faith as Catholics engaged with the world while remaining faithful to their baptismal promise. And who knows – maybe he will be able to share some other discussions while he was in Rome with Pope Francis.

Many of the boards and associations from across Canada are prepared to share with you various topics such as inclusion, promotion of Catholic education, political advocacy and building lasting relationships within our communities and with First Nations, Métis and Inuit. Hot off the presses --- you will not want to miss our discussion Friday afternoon about the Saskatchewan Theodore court case & judgement.

Another news flash – the CCSTA 2017 AGM is going GREEN. Yes that means that you will be sent an email with a link to the website where you will be able to download ALL the documents for the Saturday morning AGM meeting. So you can either print the booklet or save the file on your computer for easy access. So expect an email from the committee around Friday, May 25.

Niagara, the place to greet you for CCSTA 2017. Join us to pray, learn and have fun. And this, all together in this beautiful family that is the Catholic Education and "Grow together in the vineyard of Christ".

### In This Issue



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# President's Message

## Shifting Seasons

There's something about a new season: the trees change; there's a shift in the weather; animals re-navigate. Ultimately, there is promise of change. And renewal.

The same can be said for what's happening across Canada in Catholic education right now. We've witnessed strong messages that would deny a students' right to receive Catholic education.

It's a time when it'd be easier to hibernate, hide and wait it out.

Instead – we have witnessed a shift. We've seen continued support and outcry for these rights. We've had deep conversations with politicians about Catholic education's role in each province. We're hearing directly from families about just what a Catholic education means to them. We're talking, listening, responding, and acting.

While we work with and support Alberta, BC and Saskatchewan to provide continued support about the importance of Catholic education and the ability to access it, we're inspired by those driving the message home.

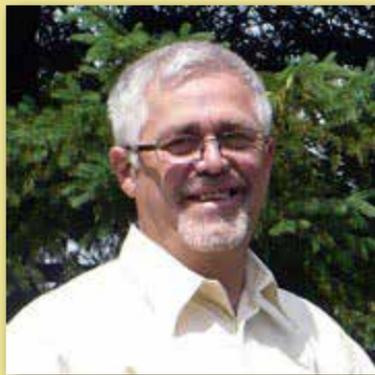
So while we may experience dark days, frozen ground and unwelcomed frigid temperatures, one thing is clear: the shift has come. I have hope. I see the days getting brighter and outlining a future that pulls strength from the shadows and into the open.

Let's continue to look at the beauty and inspiration that comes even when it seems like dark days.

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Julian Hanlon and I attended the National Prayer Breakfast in Ottawa where Governor General David Johnston and MP Bob Zimmer addressed the group. The National Prayer Breakfast is an annual ecumenical event held under the combined authority of the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons and organized by a group of dedicated volunteers. The event allows our elected public officials to gather together with men and women from different backgrounds to pray and connect through our shared Christian faith. It was a great opportunity to connect on a national level in a prayerful setting.

As we come together at Niagara Falls, Ontario, we'll be ignited by inspiring talks from our keynote speakers as well as the discussion. We'll take the time to re-connect and renew our sense of community while exploring the best of Niagara, Ontario. Thank you to the organizers for hosting what's expected to be yet another unforgettable annual conference!



CCSTA/ACCEC President  
Marino Gazzola

Respectfully,

Marino Gazzola  
CCSTA President

# Rapport du président

## Le cycle des saisons

Une nouvelle saison apporte toujours un renouveau : les arbres se transforment, le temps change, les animaux migrent. C'est une promesse de changement et de renouveau.

On peut en dire autant sur l'éducation catholique au Canada en ce moment. Nous constatons de fortes tendances qui visent à priver l'accès des élèves à l'éducation catholique.

Ça serait plus facile d'hiberner, de se taire et d'attendre.

Au contraire, nous constatons qu'il y a un virage. Il y a de l'indignation et un soutien appuyé pour ces droits.

Nous avons eu des discussions approfondies avec nos dirigeants sur le rôle de l'éducation catholique dans chaque province. Les familles nous disent à quel point elles tiennent à l'éducation catholique. Nous discutons, écoutons, répondons et agissons.

Tout en apportant notre appui en Alberta, en Colombie-Britannique et en Saskatchewan sur les questions de l'accès à l'éducation catholique et de son importance, nous sommes inspirés par le travail de ceux qui mènent le combat.

Alors même si nous connaissons des jours sombres, des journées froides et un sol gelé, une chose demeure : le renouveau arrive. J'ai espoir. Je vois pointer la lumière et des jours meilleurs sont à nos portes.

Continuons de percevoir l'inspiration et le positif à travers ce qui semble être des jours sombres.

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Julian Hanlon et moi avons participé au Déjeuner-prière national à Ottawa, au cours duquel le gouverneur général du Canada, David Johnston, et le député Bob Zimmer se sont adressés au groupe. Le petit déjeuner de prière national est une activité œcuménique annuelle tenue sous les auspices des présidents du Sénat et de la Chambre des communes et organisée par un groupe de bénévoles. Cette activité permet à nos élus de rencontrer des femmes et des hommes de différents horizons pour prier et établir un dialogue avec eux dans l'esprit de la foi chrétienne. Ce fut une excellente occasion de créer des liens au niveau national dans une atmosphère de prière.

Notre rencontre prochaine à Niagara Falls, en Ontario, nous permettra de nous imprégner d'idées inspirantes de la part de nos conférenciers invités et de nos animateurs d'ateliers. Nous pourrions rétablir nos liens et recréer notre sens de communauté tout en profitant de ce que nous offre la région du Niagara. Merci aux organisateurs pour ce qui promet d'être un congrès annuel inoubliable!

Respectueusement,

Marino Gazzola  
président, ACCEC



MP Zimmer speaking at the National Prayer Breakfast last month.

Share your good news!

Send us your stories so we can share the good news of Catholic education.

CCSTA/ACCEC



## Vision

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

## Mission

The CCSTA works in communion with the Catholic Church through:

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

2016-2017

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2016-2017

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For news and links, visit our website at [www.ccsta.ca](http://www.ccsta.ca).

## From the Office Desk...

Hard to believe the end of another school year is just around the corner. Like most years, we have experienced many successes and as is always the case, had our share of challenges.

Our website and twitter accounts continue to be widely used as sources of information about CCSTA and the activities we are currently engaged in. As mentioned in December, our website is now completely mobile friendly and we continuously provide information in both official languages. If you follow us on Twitter @CCSTACONnect, you will see the many examples of the impact Catholic Education has on the lives of thousands of students coast to coast. The dedication and commitment shown by trustees, administration, teachers and support staff continues to amaze me.



We are slowly rolling out our local engagement strategy across the country. This will become a main focus next school year. To date, trustees that have met with their local MPs have nothing but positive news to report back. As mentioned, we are also facing a number of challenges that we are monitoring and in some cases will likely take more concrete action. Everyone is familiar with the ruling in the Theodore Case in Saskatchewan. We will keep you posted as to next steps. Bill 63, which passed first reading in the Saskatchewan legislature, challenges the role of a school trustee. We are in touch with the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association (SCSBA) and will follow this case with interest.

To finish on a positive note, by the time you receive this newsletter, our very successful 2017 AGM is or will have taken place in beautiful Niagara Falls. Thank you from all of us to the organizing committee from AFOCSC, CSDCCS and NCDSB for all their hard work. Congratulations on a job well done!

In closing, I wish everyone a restful and relaxing summer.

Julian Hanlon,  
CCSTA Executive Director

## Nouvelles du bureau central

Il est difficile de croire qu'une autre année scolaire s'achève déjà. Comme c'est habituellement le cas, elle nous aura apporté de nombreuses réussites et aussi un bon lot de défis.

Notre site web et notre compte Twitter continuent d'attirer ceux qui veulent s'informer de l'ACCEC et de ses activités courantes. Tel que je l'avais souligné en décembre, notre site web est maintenant entièrement adapté aux dispositifs mobiles, et les informations y sont disponibles dans les deux langues officielles. Si vous êtes adeptes de notre lien Twitter@CCSTACONnect, vous connaissez déjà plusieurs exemples de l'impact de l'éducation catholique dans la vie de milliers d'élèves partout au pays. L'engagement et le dévouement des conseillers et des administrateurs scolaires, des enseignants et des employés de soutien sont pour moi une source d'inspiration.

Nous sommes à déployer graduellement notre stratégie d'implication au niveau local. Cette initiative deviendra notre focus pour la prochaine année scolaire. À ce jour, les conseillers qui ont rencontré leurs députés n'ont que de bonnes expériences à relater. Nous sommes aussi aux prises avec un certain nombre de défis et notre analyse nous indique qu'il faudra dans certains cas nous impliquer de façon plus concrète. Chacun est au courant du jugement dans le cas Theodore en Saskatchewan. Nous vous tiendrons au courant des développements. La loi 63, dont la première lecture a été faite au parlement de la Saskatchewan, remet en question le rôle des conseillers scolaires. Nous sommes en lien avec la Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association (SCSBA) et nous suivons de près ce dossier.

Sur une note positive, au moment où vous lisez ces lignes, notre fructueux congrès/AGA 2017 à Niagara Falls sera déjà chose du passé. Nous remercions le comité organisateur de l'AFOCSC, de la CSDCCS et de la NCDSB pour ce franc succès. Félicitations pour cette belle réussite!

Pour finir, je souhaite à tous et à toutes un excellent été, empreint de repos et de relaxation.

Julian Hanlon  
Directeur général

# Bishop Henry of Calgary Named 2017 Higgins Award Winner

CCSTA is pleased to announce the Most Reverend Bishop Frederick Henry of Calgary as the 2017 Justice James Higgins Award Recipient.

When Bishop Henry announced his retirement in early January, the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association wanted to honour his hard work and dedication to Catholic education – and so they submitted the nomination form for the CCSTA award.

In memory of a distinguished Canadian jurist and Catholic School Trustee, the Honourable Justice James Higgins (1913-1974) of St. John's, Newfoundland, the Board of Directors of CCSTA annually presents an award to a person or group that has made an outstanding contribution to Catholic education in Canada. The Justice James Higgins Award is the highest honour provided by CCSTA. It reflects recognition of an exceptional contribution to Catholic education in this country.

Bishop Henry has been a champion for Catholic education in Alberta and Canada, and has contributed greatly to its cause, first in his service in Ontario as Liaison Bishop to the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities of Canada, and as a Member of the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops (OCCB) Education Commission, and later as liaison Bishop with the ACSTA in Alberta.

"Throughout his ecclesial ministry, he consistently and fearlessly has been an outspoken advocate for the poor, the defenceless, and homeless. He has advocated for access to health care, environmental issues, and many pro-life issues," ACSTA Vice-President John Tomkinson wrote in the nomination. "It is through Bishop Henry's work in Catholic education, specifically as education liaison with the Alberta/NWT Bishop Conference to Catholic education in Alberta, as well as his past work in Catholic education in Ontario, that Bishop Henry rightly deserves to be honoured as the recipient of the Justice Higgins Award."

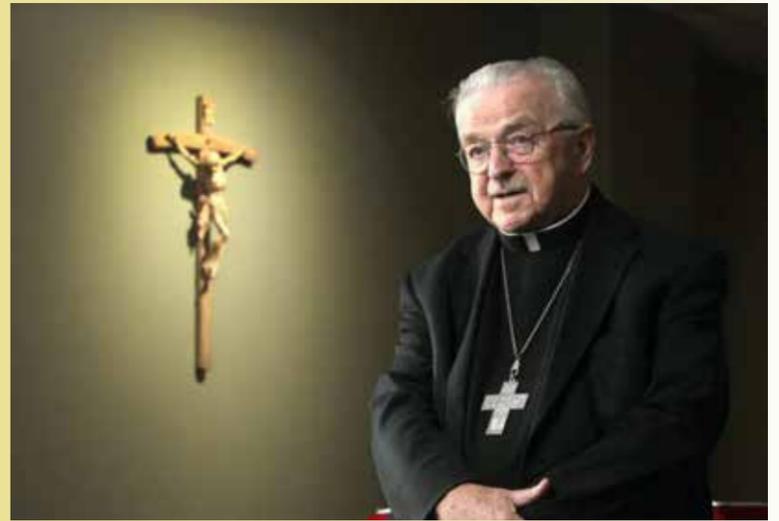
Bishop Henry has also been actively involved with curriculum development and is the Alberta Bishop representative in the current ongoing new Grades 1-8 curriculum being developed by ACBO and Pearson Canada. According to Tomkinson, Bishop Henry has been a true advocate for Catholic education, as well as to all of those who have been under his care as Bishop of Calgary since 1998.

"The ACSTA, representing Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon have shared in his efforts to protect this vital and grace filled gift of publicly funded Catholic education and would like to thank him for his great service to our organization and the people of Canada," wrote Tomkinson, adding that with the presentation of the 2017 award taking place in Niagara Falls, nominating Bishop Henry this year would provide a strong statement of support for the work he has done in Ontario (as Bishop of Thunder Bay) and Alberta. It would also award him the opportunity to, if successful, to receive the award in southern Ontario where he is from originally.

Chair for the Calgary Catholic School District's Board of Trustees, Cheryl Low, supported the nomination.

She outlined how Bishop Henry's tenure can also be marked by his strong support for the development of new curriculum and curricular resources to support the distinctly Catholic education of students in Alberta. Bishop Henry played a key role in the adoption of new curriculum materials and continues to work closely with educational professionals to ensure that the quality of Catholic resources and programming is held to the highest standard possible.

"Our jurisdiction has benefited directly from the leadership and guidance that



Bishop Henry/CalgaryHerald

our Bishop has provided over the years," wrote Low. "Moreover, we recognize the impact that his leadership and counsel have provided to all the Catholic jurisdictions in Alberta and beyond. Without hesitation, we are pleased to recommend Bishop Henry be recognized for his prolonged and considerable contributions to Catholic education."

Other letters of support were submitted as part of the nomination, including one from Cardinal Thomas Collins, the Archbishop of Toronto.

"Bishop Henry's prophetic voice as a bishop has helped to guide the Church in this country and his episcopal ministry has not only benefitted Catholic education but the whole life of the Church in his diocese and beyond," Cardinal Collins wrote.

Calling it a privilege to have worked with Bishop Henry, Archbishop of Edmonton Richard W. Smith highlighted Bishop Henry's lasting impact.

"A man of God who has taken very seriously the responsibilities entrusted to him as Bishop, he has not failed to pass on the faith to the people entrusted to his care," wrote Bishop Smith in a letter of support. "For this role he has been particularly gifted with a capacity for clear thought and bold proclamation. Indeed, Bishop Henry is known not only in his Diocese but also provincially, nationally and beyond for his courageous preaching of the Gospel. Where others might be tempted to stay silent for fear of criticism or loss of popularity, Bishop Henry has not hesitated to speak the truths of our faith whenever required, however difficult the circumstances might be." CCSTA President Marino Gazzola says it's an honour to congratulate the Most Reverend Bishop Frederick Henry on being awarded this year's Justice Higgins Award.

"Bishop Henry has been a champion for Catholic education across Canada, and especially in the provinces he has served, Alberta and Ontario," says Gazzola. "Bishop Henry will receive the award at our Annual General Meeting in Niagara Falls this June, and it will be a pleasure to present it to him in his home Province. On behalf of all Catholic Trustees across our country, I congratulate and thank Bishop Henry for his support and faith filled work."

Bishop Henry will receive the award at the 2017 CCSTA AGM and Annual Conference in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

## Mgr Henry de Calgary reçoit le Prix Higgins 2017

L'ACCEC est fière d'annoncer que Mgr Frederick Henry de Calgary est le récipiendaire du Prix James Justice Higgins 2017.

Au début janvier, lorsque Mgr Henry a annoncé sa retraite, l'Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association a voulu souligner son travail et son implication en éducation catholique, et c'est ainsi que sa candidature a été proposée.

En mémoire du distingué juriste canadien et conseiller scolaire catholique, le juge James Higgins (1913-1974), de Saint-Jean de Terre-Neuve, le conseil d'administration de l'ACCEC accorde annuellement un prix à un individu ou à un groupe pour sa contribution exceptionnelle à l'éducation catholique au Canada. Le Prix Justice James Higgins représente le plus haut honneur attribué par l'ACCEC.

Mgr Henry a été un champion de l'éducation catholique en Alberta et au Canada. D'abord, il a œuvré en Ontario en tant qu'évêque de liaison pour l'Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities of Canada, et comme membre de l'Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops (OCCB) Education Commission, et plus tard comme évêque de liaison pour l'ACSTA en Alberta.

« Au cours de son ministère ecclésial, il a toujours ardemment défendu les pauvres, les nécessiteux et les sans-abri. Il a milité en faveur des soins de santé, de causes environnementales et de plusieurs aspects du mouvement pro-vie, » écrivait John Tomkinson, vice-président de l'ACSTA, dans sa lettre de mise en candidature. « C'est le travail de Mgr Henry en éducation catholique, particulièrement en tant qu'évêque de liaison pour l'éducation auprès de l'Alberta/NWT Bishop Conference to Catholic Education in Alberta, ainsi que son travail antérieur en éducation catholique en Ontario, que Mgr Henry mérite le Prix Justice Higgins. »

Mgr Henry a aussi été impliqué dans le développement de curriculum et il est le représentant des évêques de l'Alberta dans l'actuelle refonte du curriculum de la 1e à la 8e année effectuée par l'Assemblée des évêques catholiques de l'Ontario et Pearson Canada. Selon Tomkinson, Mgr Henry a été un vrai défenseur de l'éducation catholique et défenseur de tous ceux qui ont été sous son égide en tant qu'évêque de Calgary depuis 1998.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

« L'ACSTA, qui représente l'Alberta, les Territoires-du-Nord-Ouest et le Yukon, a contribué à ses efforts pour protéger ce privilège vital d'une éducation catholique subventionnée à même les fonds publics. Nous voulons le remercier des services rendus à notre organisation et à la population du Canada, » écrit Tomkinson, ajoutant qu'avec la présentation du prix 2017 à Niagara Falls, la nomination de Mgr Henry serait aussi une reconnaissance du travail qu'il a accompli en Ontario lorsqu'il était évêque de Thunder Bay. Ce serait aussi, advenant sa nomination, une opportunité de recevoir le prix dans le sud de l'Ontario, d'où il est originaire.

Cheryl Low, présidente de la Calgary Catholic School District's Board of Trustees, a aussi appuyé sa candidature. Elle a souligné qu'au cours de son mandat, Mgr Henry a fortement appuyé le développement d'un nouveau curriculum et de ressources distinctes pour les élèves catholiques de l'Alberta. Il a joué un rôle clé dans l'approbation de ressources et il continue de collaborer activement avec des professionnels de l'éducation pour s'assurer de la qualité des nouvelles ressources catholiques et de standards élevés. « Nous avons bénéficié du leadership et des conseils de notre évêque pendant des années, » écrivait Low. « Nous reconnaissons l'impact que ce leadership et ces conseils ont eu dans toutes les régions de l'Alberta et ailleurs. Sans hésitation, nous sommes heureux de recommander Mgr Henry pour qu'il soit reconnu pour sa longue et importante contribution à l'éducation catholique. »

D'autres lettres d'appui ont accompagné sa mise en candidature, dont une du cardinal Thomas Collins, archevêque de Toronto.

« La voix prophétique de Mgr Henry a aidé à guider l'église de ce pays. Son ministère épiscopal a non seulement profité à l'éducation catholique mais aussi à la vie entière de l'église dans ce diocèse et ailleurs, » écrivait le cardinal Collins.

Pour l'archevêque d'Edmonton, Mgr Richard W. Smith, ce fut un privilège de travailler avec Mgr Henry. Il souligne ici sa contribution durable.

« En homme de Dieu qui a pris au sérieux ses responsabilités d'évêque, il n'a pas manqué de transmettre la foi à ceux qu'il devait guider, » écrivait Mgr Smith dans sa lettre d'appui.

« Il était particulièrement doué pour ce rôle, grâce à ses pensées claires et à son parler franc. En effet, il est reconnu non seulement dans son diocèse, mais à travers la province, le pays et plus loin encore pour sa façon courageuse de prêcher l'Évangile. Là où d'autres se seraient tus par crainte de critique ou de perte de popularité, Mgr Henry n'a pas hésité à dire les vérités de notre foi, sans égard aux circonstances. »

Marino Gazzola, président de l'ACCEC, déclare que c'est un honneur de féliciter Mgr Henry d'être le récipiendaire du Prix Higgins de cette année.

« Mgr Henry a été un champion de l'éducation catholique au Canada, et particulièrement dans les provinces où il a œuvré, l'Ontario et l'Alberta, » dit Gazzola. « Mgr Henry recevra son prix lors de notre assemblée générale annuelle de juin prochain, à Niagara Falls. Ce sera un plaisir de lui présenter le prix dans sa province d'origine. Au nom de tous les conseillers scolaires catholiques du Canada, je félicite Mgr Henry et je le remercie pour son travail et son appui. »

Le prix sera remis à Mgr Henry lors de l'AGA du congrès annuel de l'ACCEC, à Niagara Falls en Ontario.

## CCSTA Statement on Saskatchewan Ruling

Following a recent Court of Queen's Bench ruling that, if allowed to stand, would force about 10,000 non-Catholic students out of Catholic schools, CCSTA had made a statement on the Theodore Case decision.

"The Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association strongly believes an appeal in the Theodore case is warranted. While pleased that Premier Wall is invoking the not-withstanding clause to allow non Catholics to attend Catholic schools and receive funding, the SCSBA feels they have good grounds for an appeal. At this time they are waiting to see if the Saskatchewan government will appeal the ruling. If an appeal goes ahead CCSTA will in all likelihood seek intervenor status," says Executive Director Julian Hanlon.

The CCSTA response is to an April 20 Court of Queen's Bench ruling on a legal challenge by the Good Spirit School Division of Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools' right to receive provincial funding for non-Catholic students. The Court ruled that the government must stop funding non-minority faith students to attend separate schools.

### The Background

In 2005, York School Division (now Good Spirit School Division #204 (GSSD) filed a legal complaint against what is now Christ the Teacher Roman Catholic School Division #212 (CTRCS) and the Government of Saskatchewan.

The complaint alleged that the creation of the new school division after the closure of Theodore Public School did not meet the criteria of being a separate school—serving Catholics who are the minority religion in the region. They alleged it was created merely as a means to prevent the school from closing and children being bussed to a nearby town, and they are challenging the legal status of the division.

Their argument was that per student grants paid to a Catholic school division for non-Catholic students is discriminatory against public schools under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

What does this mean? Essentially, that non-Catholic students attending a Catholic School shouldn't be allowed to do so. Instead, the GSSD argued these students shouldn't be allowed to choose whether they should attend a public or separate school; rather, the government should only allow these students one choice: the public system.

After years of attempting to reconcile this complaint, the case came before the provincial court.

The 12-week trial took place in Yorkton and started in November, 2015. Following a five-week trial, they re-convened in May, 2015 for another seven weeks (with breaks integrated throughout). When the trial wrapped up in mid-July, one thing was for sure: there was significant information presented from all three sides involved – the public school board (the plaintiff), the Catholic school board (the defence) and the provincial government (the defence).

Following the 12-week trial, the Judge, Justice Layh, had to review the 7,000

pages of transcripts as well as the submissions made by both the plaintiff and the defendants.

On April 20, the Court ruled that the government must stop funding non-minority faith students to attend separate schools.

### SCSBA Set to Appeal

On April 28, the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association (SCSBA) announced that an appeal of the recent decision in the Theodore court case will be filed on behalf of Christ the Teacher School Division. The decision to appeal has been unanimously endorsed by all eight Catholic school boards in the province.

"The legal team representing Christ the Teacher School Division in this case has carefully reviewed the trial judge's lengthy decision, and we believe that there are several strong grounds for appeal," said SCSBA spokesperson Tom Fortosky.

### The Government's Response

On May 1, Premier Brad Wall announced the government will protect school choice in Saskatchewan by invoking the notwithstanding clause of The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The move comes in response to a recent Court of Queen's Bench ruling that, if allowed to stand, would force about 10,000 non-Catholic students out of Catholic schools. The ruling could also risk provincial funding of 26 other faith-based schools including Luther College, Regina Christian School, Saskatoon Christian School and Huda School.

"We support school choice including public, separate and faith-based schools," Wall said. "We will defend school choice for students and parents. By invoking the notwithstanding clause we are protecting the rights of parents and students to choose the schools that work best for their families, regardless of their religious faith."

Section 33 of The Charter of Rights and Freedoms gives provincial legislatures the authority to override certain portions of the Charter for a five year term. Invoking the notwithstanding clause requires an Act of the Legislative Assembly.

"I have asked the Ministers of Education and Justice to begin preparing legislation to invoke the notwithstanding clause to protect choice in our school system," Wall said. "We wanted to announce this now to provide clarity and provide parents with the assurance that they will be able to continue to choose the kind of school they want their children to attend."

To learn more about the court case, decision and next steps, visit the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association website at <http://www.scsba.ca/>.

# La réaction de l'ACCEC à l'affaire Theodore en Saskatchewan

Suite au jugement rendu par la Cour du Banc de la Reine qui, s'il est maintenu, forcerait environ 10 000 élèves non catholiques à cesser de fréquenter l'école catholique, l'ACCEC avait publié une réaction sur le jugement de l'affaire Theodore.

« La Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association croit fermement qu'un appel à la décision dans l'affaire Theodore est justifié. Bien qu'heureuse que le premier ministre Wall propose d'invoquer la clause nonobstant qui permettrait aux non catholiques de fréquenter l'école catholique tout en bénéficiant d'une subvention, la SCSBA estime qu'ici, un appel est justifié. Si l'appel va de l'avant, l'ACCEC demandera fort probablement le statut d'intervenant dans l'affaire, » dit Julian Hanlon, directeur général.

Cette réponse de l'ACCEC fait suite à un jugement rendu le 20 avril par la Cour du Banc de la Reine sur une contestation judiciaire de la Good Spirit School Division sur le droit de la Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools d'obtenir une subvention provinciale pour ses élèves non catholiques. La Cour a décidé que le Gouvernement devait mettre fin à la subvention pour les élèves de confession non minoritaire fréquentant les écoles séparées.

## L'historique

En 2005, la York School Division (aujourd'hui Good Spirit School Division #204 (GSSD)) a intenté une action contre ce qui est aujourd'hui la Christ the Teacher Roman Catholic School Division #212 (CTRCSA) et le Gouvernement de la Saskatchewan.

La requête suggère que la création d'une nouvelle division scolaire faisant suite à la fermeture de la Theodore Public School n'était pas conforme aux critères exigés pour constituer une école séparée, en l'occurrence, desservir les catholiques qui sont minoritaires dans cette région. Elle prétend également que la création de cette division scolaire n'avait pour but que de prévenir la fermeture de l'école, ce qui aurait forcé les élèves à utiliser le transport scolaire vers une agglomération située à proximité. Voilà pourquoi la légalité du statut de la division est contestée.

Leur argument était que les subventions accordées à la division scolaire catholique pour les élèves non catholiques sont discriminatoires envers les écoles publiques selon la Charte des droits et libertés.

Que veut dire tout cela? Essentiellement, que les élèves non catholiques ne devraient pas avoir le droit de fréquenter l'école catholique. Cependant, la GSSD défendait plutôt l'argument selon lequel on ne devrait pas permettre à ces élèves de choisir entre l'école publique ou l'école séparée, et que le gouvernement devrait leur imposer une seule voie, celle du système public.

Après des années de tentatives de règlement hors-cour, la cause a finalement été entendue en cour provinciale. Le procès a débuté en novembre 2015 à Yorkton et a duré 12 semaines. Après 5 semaines consécutives d'audiences, la cause a été reportée en mai 2015, où elle a été entendue pendant 7 autres semaines non consécutives. À la fin de l'exercice, vers la mi-juillet, la somme de docu-



Tom Fortosky, spokesperson for the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association, met with media in Saskatoon Friday to talk about plans to appeal a recent court decision that will impact their funding. (Chris Carr/CKOM)

mentation présentée par les différentes parties – le conseil public (le plaignant), le conseil catholique (la défense) et le Gouvernement provincial (la défense) – était considérable.

Au bout de ces 12 semaines, le juge Layh avait à revoir 7 000 pages de transcriptions en plus des conclusions juridiques présentées par le plaignant et la défense.

Le 20 avril, la Cour a décidé que le gouvernement devait mettre fin aux subventions accordées aux élèves de minorités confessionnelles qui fréquentent les écoles séparées.

## La SCSBA va en appel

Le 28 avril, la Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association (SCSBA) a annoncé qu'elle ferait appel à la décision rendue dans l'affaire Theodore au nom de la Christ the Teacher School Division. Cette décision a été appuyée unanimement par les huit conseils scolaires catholiques de la province.

« L'équipe juridique représentant la Christ the Teacher School Division dans cette affaire a attentivement étudié la longue décision du juge, et nous y retrouvons plusieurs aspects qui justifient un appel, » dit le porte-parole de la SCSBA, Tom Fortosky.

## La réponse du gouvernement

Le 1er mai, le premier ministre Brad Wall a annoncé que le gouvernement allait préserver le choix scolaire en Saskatchewan, en invoquant la clause dérogatoire de la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés.

Cette décision fait suite à un récent jugement de la Cour du Banc de la Reine qui, s'il est maintenu, forcerait environ 10 000 élèves non catholiques à cesser de fréquenter l'école catholique. Le jugement met aussi en péril la subvention à 26 autres écoles confessionnelles, dont le Luther College, la Regina Christian School, la Saskatoon Christian School et la Huda School.

« Nous appuyons la liberté de choix scolaire entre les écoles publiques, séparées et confessionnelles, » dit Wall. « Nous continuerons à défendre cette liberté de choix pour les parents et les élèves. En invoquant la clause nonobstant, nous protégeons le droit des parents et des élèves de choisir l'école qui convient le mieux à leur famille, sans égard à leurs croyances religieuses. »

L'article 33 de la Charte des droits et libertés permet aux gouvernements provinciaux d'outrepasser certaines portions de la Charte sur une période de cinq ans. Invoquer la clause nonobstant exige la création d'une loi de l'Assemblée législative.

« J'ai demandé aux ministres de l'Éducation et de la Justice d'ébaucher une loi pour invoquer la clause dérogatoire et ainsi protéger notre système scolaire, » dit Wall. « Nous en faisons l'annonce dès maintenant pour clarifier la situation et offrir aux parents l'assurance qu'ils pourront continuer de choisir l'école qu'ils désirent pour leurs enfants. »

Pour plus de détails sur cette cause juridique, les décisions et les étapes à venir, veuillez consulter le site web de la Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association à <http://www.scsba.ca/>.

# Provincial Reports

## British Columbia



Greetings from the Catholic Independent Schools Committee (CISCBC) in beautiful British Columbia.

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% 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% 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% funding, schools must spend less per student than the public schools in their local area.

### BC Ministry of Education

The provincial election was May 9, and as always, independent school supporters were keenly interested in wanting to know which candidates would continue to support “educational choice” in BC as well continue funding for independent schools. At the writing of this report, the election had yet to take place.

It is expected that the November 2016 BC Teachers Federation Supreme Court Ruling will positively affect funding to independent schools; how each political party responds to this ruling is not yet certain. The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the Ministry of Education is required to restore class size and composition to 2002-03 levels. This will result in millions of dollars being provided to public schools across BC over the next few years in order to reach those levels. Considering that money given for class size and composition is an operating expense, it would be logical that independent schools would receive proportional funding accordingly. As such, the picture related to per student operating grants remains uncertain, yet hopeful. After a number of years of minimal increases and at times decreases, we expect per student grants to increase taking into account the significant operational expenses in the public school system to meet the requirement of the Supreme Court Ruling noted above. Revised per student grant estimates for 2017-18 are expected in July.

The Ministry of Education’s plan to launch the new K-12 Curriculum and accompanying reporting and assessment practices for all schools in BC is well underway. The K-9 Curriculum, mandatory this year, is being implemented in all subject areas. Teachers are working to adapt their planning, assessment and classroom strategies accordingly. Based on feedback provided by teachers and educators, the Grade 10-12 Curriculum will be delayed one year in order to give teachers, principals and trustees more time to work hands-on with the redesigned curriculum. Full implementation is now set for 2018-19.

Legislation Affecting Independent Schools this year included the requirement to develop and/or update policies in the following areas:

- Non-discrimination and bully/harassment prevention – requirement to include specific language (sexual orientation and gender identity)
  - Learning resources – guidelines as they pertain to selection, use and challenge of learning resources
  - Water testing policy – RE: testing for lead in school drinking water.
- The Ministry continues to support and mandate professional development, particularly in the following areas:
  - Train the trainers so that coding will be taught in all BC schools
  - Training to meet the requirements to have at least two staff trained in Levels 1-3 ERASE Bullying
  - Emergency Management training.

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

“FISA BC’s mission is to enable parents to exercise the right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children and to promote the rightful place and responsibility of independent schools within a democratic and pluralistic society.” (FISA website) The FISA Board held a Strategic Planning Retreat in February. An updated Mission and Strategic Plan will be finalized shortly.

The FISA BC Board meets monthly to address topics common to all independent schools in the province. FISA representatives sit on a wide variety of provincial committees and dialogues with numerous organizations. The involvement from independent schools with the Ministry of Education committee has significantly increased in the last number of years. As such FISA has recently posted for an Assistant Executive Director to support the increased work required of this office.

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. Doug Lauson, retired Superintendent of Vancouver Catholic Schools and one of the CIS reps, has been president of FISA for 13 years. After 23 years on the FISA Board representing Catholic schools, he will be stepping down. His expertise, commitment and dedication will be greatly missed.

Statistics published by the FISA BC indicate that there are 355 independent schools in BC accounting for approximately 81,659 students (13% of all BC students). 298 schools are members of FISA BC. 27% of the independent school

students attend the 77 Catholic schools in the Province. Independent schools receive approximately 6% of the Education Budget. FISA BC continues to receive requests from new independent schools to join the Association.

### 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 recently completed the development of a new strategic plan. The four goals in the plan are:

- To have all members of our school communities be agents of evangelization.
- To infuse the new BC Curriculum with a Catholic Worldview.
- To call forth, support and retain dynamic Catholic school staff.
- To spread the Good News of Catholic schools across the province.

CISCBC looks forward to hosting you all in Kelowna for the 2018 AGM. The theme for our time together will be I am the vine, You are the branches / Je suis la vigne, Vous êtes les branches.

## Alberta/NWT



### AGM 2016 – 50th Anniversary

For 2016, the Alberta Catholic School Trustees’ Association (ACSTA) celebrated 50 years as an organization. We owe our very existence to the hard work and dedication of so many people over the years, and we are truly grateful that our member boards have helped us to work together to ensure that we are living out our mission, which is to “To celebrate, preserve, promote, and enhance Catholic education”.

The 2017 ACSTA AGM & Convention was held with much success. Dr. Josephine Lombardi served as the keynote speaker and was met with a lot of enthusiasm. The ACSTA once again held a silent auction to raise donations for Toonies for Tuition and Development and Peace at our AGM in November. A total of \$5584.88 was raised.

The ACSTA 50th Anniversary Gala event was held during the AGM, and was unprecedented in that all Alberta and NWT Bishops were in attendance for the event. The evening was a wonderful time of memories and friendship with past ACSTA staff and in attendance, as well as many old friends of the ACSTA and current and past trustees.

### Advocacy

The Elected Officers and Executive Director

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of the ACSTA took as many opportunities as possible to meet with the Minister of Education David Eggen, Department of Education, MLAs and stakeholder groups to discuss issues relevant to Catholic education important to ACSTA member boards. The ACSTA and its staff also met with Chief of Staff Jeremy Nolais, Deputy Ministers Rosen and Clarke, Wildrose Education critic Mark Smith and PC Acting leader Ric McIver. ACSTA President Adriana LaGrange, Vice President John Tomkinson and Past President Tony Sykora all met with many MLAs through numerous events as well.

In September 2016, a meeting with the Minister of Education included a review of the Nutrition Program divisions and the inclusion of Catholic divisions. Curriculum review was also mentioned and it was noted that there will be no specific Catholic expert working group but each board will be allowed to nominate a total of eight teachers, and it is the Catholic board's responsibility to ensure they have a sense of the faith perspective. Ongoing discussions are occurring with Alberta Education regarding Catholic curriculum redesign as this is a six year endeavour.

Alberta Education launched their new Future Ready initiative in October 2016, with an online survey. The ACSTA advocated to its member base the importance of filling out the survey, and encouraged all member boards to spread the word to help make the Catholic education voice heard as much as possible.

As 2017 is an election year, the ACSTA will be working to promote trusteeship throughout the year leading up to the nomination deadline, and will be advocating the importance of the role of the trustee in the community. Municipal elections in Alberta take place on October 16, 2017.

The ACSTA in conjunction with the four Alberta Bishops will be holding Catholic Trustee information sessions in May and June. Locations will be Calgary, Edmonton, Grand Prairie and Ft. McMurray.

Currently, the ACSTA is working on revisiting its Advocacy plan and will be working with Garry Andrews at its May 2017 Board meeting.

## Communications

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

The winter issue of The Catholic Dimension was released in early December and was met with positive feedback. The ACSTA Facebook page, which was launched in September (<https://www.facebook.com/ACSTANews/>), has received excellent feedback as well, and is updated on a daily basis. The Summer issue of The Catholic Dimension will be issued in late May.

The ACSTA video titled 'Faith' was made available via a link on the ACSTA Facebook page as part of the launch of the page. <https://www.facebook.com/ACSTANews/videos/319485251739799/>

For the 50th Anniversary, ACSTA communications created a 20 page 8.5 x 8.5 memory booklet, which was printed in colour and distributed at the November Gala.

The ACSTA once again held a video contest, and launched G.R.A.C.E. 3 in mid November via social media. Winners are to be announced in late

May.

The ACSTA in conjunction with Red Deer Catholic Schools held a second provincial communicators meeting on December 1, in Red Deer. A special thank you goes out to Red Deer Catholic's communications team for their help. A third meeting is planned for May/June 2017 with Edmonton Catholic to host.

Looking to the future, the ACSTA is currently in the preliminary stages of working on new website for the 2017 year. Launch date is September 2017.

## Faith Development

The annual SPICE and Blueprints retreats were recently held with SPICE taking place from April 27 to 30, and Blueprints from May 2 to 5, in Kananaskis, Alberta. SPICE focus is on classroom teachers and staff, and Blueprints is focused on administrators and Catholic education leaders, and they are the ACSTA's principal faith formation and community building events. The Keynote speaker for both events was David Wells, who spoke on the theme *Amoris Laetitia: Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on love in the family*.

Development and Peace continues to be a vital stakeholder and partner in Catholic education in the area of social justice education. The final report on the Joint Project "Workshop for the Development of Curricular Materials on Global Social Justice Issues" was presented to the ACSTA board in September, 2016. We are very proud of the work done by our teachers and the staff at Peace and Development on this project and encourage members to share with staff the 11 unit plans (in French and English) available to complement the Alberta curriculum. The final report can be found on our website (<http://www.acsta.ab.ca/resources>) and the units are available at: <http://www.dev.org/en/curricular>.

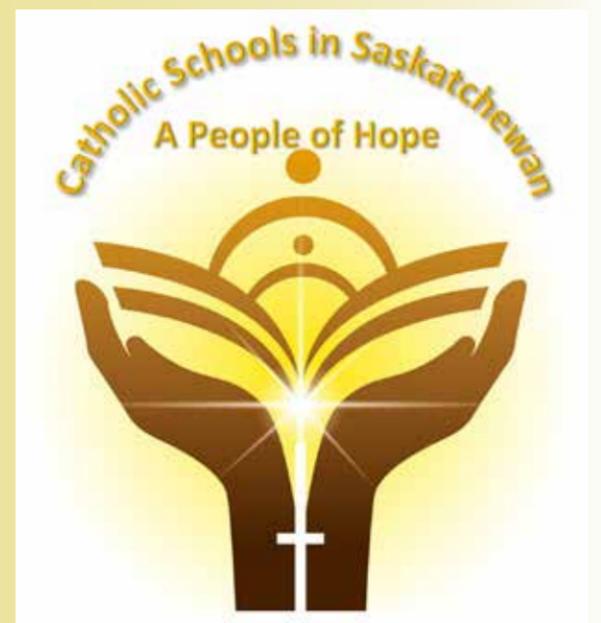
## Governance

The ACSTA completed a review of its policies and they were approved at the September 8th Board of Directors meeting. There are no "new" policies, and much like the bylaw changes, the review focussed on the use of more concise and updated language with better organization. Minor changes will be put into place for this year's AGM regarding awards and evolving reality of the education scene.

At the 2016 AGM, both Adriana LaGrange and John Tomkinson were acclaimed in their roles as President and Vice President for another one-year term.

The ACSTA conducted its annual self review of its board of directors as well as its Executive Director at its regular meeting in February, 2017. The Board will be reviewing its Strategic Plan at the May 2017 meeting.

If you have any questions or comments about ACSTA or our programs, please call 780/484-6209, email [admin@acsta.ab.ca](mailto:admin@acsta.ab.ca) or check out our website at [www.acsta.ab.ca](http://www.acsta.ab.ca) or follow us on Twitter @ACSTANews.



court case, the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association (SCSBA) announced that an appeal of the recent decision will be filed on behalf of Christ the Teacher School Division. The decision to appeal has been unanimously endorsed by all eight Catholic school boards in the province. Although the case is specific to Christ the Teacher division, it affects all Catholic education in the province.

The legal team representing Christ the Teacher School Division and the SCSBA in this case has carefully reviewed the trial judge's lengthy decision, and believe that there are several strong grounds for appeal.

At its essence, the constitution provides the Catholic minority with the right to operate a school system in accordance with Catholic values and beliefs. The SCSBA believes that this includes the right to have an inclusive and welcoming admittance policy consistent with the church's ecumenical efforts since the Second Vatican Council. This benefits the broader community as more parents have had the opportunity to exercise parental choice and choose a faith-based education for their children.

The legal team also feels that there were legal errors in finding that the Provincial Government has to discriminate on the basis of religion in its allocation of funding. The constitutional provision in section 17(2) expressly prohibits any such discrimination.

They also believe that the trial judge erroneously interpreted several long-standing legal principles—as established by past decisions of the courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada—related to the constitution.

The SCSBA recognizes that we are fortunate that Saskatchewan has enjoyed a separate school system since our inception. Parents have obviously endorsed Catholic education by entrusting Catholic schools with the education of their children. And the SCSBA will do everything we can to ensure that choice for faith-based education in Saskatchewan remains for future generations.

## Proposed Legislation Related to Property Tax

At the September 17 meeting the Board of Directors passed a motion directing Executive Director, Ken Loehndorf to contact John Edwards, Executive Director of Policy and Program Services Government Relations Branch to ensure that the constitutional entitlement of Catholic school divisions to tax Catholic rate payers is protected within the proposed legislation.

## Saskatchewan

### Theodore Court Case Appeal

After a disappointing judgment in the Theodore

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A meeting was arranged with Ministry officials and President Paula Scott and Ken Loehndorf where we shared the opinion provided by our lawyer Dick Batten. We were informed that it had been passed on to the Justice Department for their review and opinion.

It was clear that the Government understands our right to raise taxes over and above the provincial mill rate, but they would be opposed to us having the ability to reduce our mill rate to lower than the provincial mill rate.

We also discussed our concern related to the present "claw back" provision by the Ministry. We made the point that the Ministry should not be allowed to "claw back" any funds we raise from our ratepayers.

We also explained that Catholic school divisions do have additional costs related to our Catholic mandate. One prime example of this is the implementation of the new Elementary Religion Programs and the implementation of the new Catholic Studies Program in Grades 1-8.

The new draft legislation related to the collection of property tax does include a provision for Catholic boards to tax Catholic ratepayers.

## Saskatchewan Government Transformational Change Process

During the 2016 Provincial Budget announcement the government announced that in the coming year they would be asking the province to consider a "transformational change process" within all government sectors. At that time there was no indication what this would mean for education in this province.

In November the Minister of Education announced that the government had commissioned Mr. Dan Perrins to provide a K-12 Educational Governance Report. The report which was made public on December 21, 2016 provided some history and context to the Saskatchewan Educational system and provided three main options for educational governance structure within the province.

It was clear that Catholic Boards were not included in the major governance options presented by Mr. Perrins in his report, but the SCSBA was very interested in the final decision made by the government related to the proposed options for governance of Public school divisions within the province.

The report was also available on the government website and an online submission form and email address was created to garner public feedback on the report. The online submission process was open until January 23, 2017.

On December 21, 2016 Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Don Morgan also announced a six-person panel to lead consultations on the Perrin's report. The panel held face to face meetings in various locations in the province with stakeholders. The panel then presented their findings to the Minister in February.

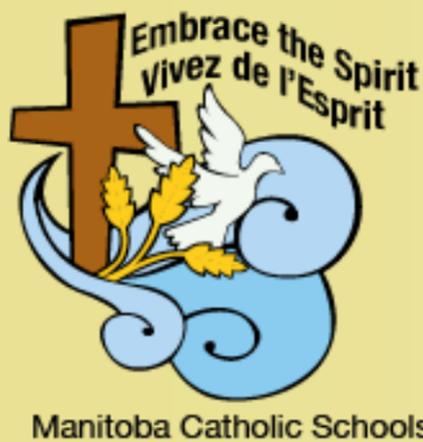
The SCSBA hosted a special meeting on December 12, 2016 with representatives from each Catholic School Division to discuss the Perrin's report and plan a unified response to the report.

President Scott and Ken Loehndorf met with the Educational Governance Panel on January 12, 2017 to share the SCSBA response to the Perrin's Report.

The SCSBA submitted an online response to the Perrin's report as modified by the SCSBA Board of Directors at the January 21, 2017 meeting. That response is posted on the SCSBA website.

The final decision of the government was to not proceed with school division amalgamations at this time, however a number of other recommendations from the Educational Governance Panel has led to significant changes as to how school divisions will operate into the future. These changes were introduced in the 2017 provincial budget and in the proposed Bill 63 legislative changes.

## Manitoba



### Enrollment

As of September 30, 2016, Manitoba's Catholic schools reported to Government an enrollment of 5,124 students (K-12), which was comprised of 3,449 in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, 1,476 in the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface, and 199 in the Archeparchy of Winnipeg. This is an increase of 63 students or 1.2% from the previous year and we are optimistic that this 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 which is based on the Nativity Miguel model and sponsored by the Jesuits opened in September 2016 in the Point Douglas neighborhood of central Winnipeg with 17 grade six students. 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 school has a strong academic program, longer school day, before and after school program, extended school year, nutrition program, transportation door to door, mentoring, and will have graduate support programs. There is no tuition and all costs are covered through fundraising. 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% of the cost to operate the school because of the enhanced program. A Ukrainian Catholic Educational Centre

was leased to house the school and major renovations were completed last summer. 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. GMS will make a contribution towards the larger efforts of government and other educational and community based organizations to overcome the inertia of child poverty and socioeconomic disadvantage, helping to change lives through education, one student at a time. A grade 7 class will be added in September, 2017.

### Organization Transformation

The central organization of Catholic Schools in Manitoba underwent a transformation this past year based on the recommendations of an ad hoc committee established by Archbishop Gagnon of Winnipeg. The committee reviewed past governance models in Manitoba dating back to the 1960's and then came up with a recommendation to create a board of consultants which would be an advisory body to the Archbishop in fulfilling his responsibilities under Canon law. After consultation with Archbishop LeGatt of Saint Boniface, this mandate was expanded to include both the Archdioceses of Winnipeg and Saint Boniface. The new Manitoba Catholic Schools Board of Consultants will make recommendations to both Archbishops in the areas of; vision, planning, policy development, public relations, and political advocacy. When the Board of Consultants makes a recommendation, each Archbishop can then choose to make it a directive binding on all school communities as per Canon 806.

In Canon law, each Catholic school operates under the jurisdiction of an ecclesiastical public juridic person and has a Canonical Administrator. In the parochial and interparochial schools, the Pastor is the Canonical Administrator. Schools that are operated by Religious Orders, their Congregational Leader are the Canonical Administrator. The Canonical Administrator in cooperation with the Board of Directors is responsible to the Archbishop for the Catholicity and good governance of the school as a Christian community. The school Principals and/or Presidents are responsible for the administration of the schools. The incorporated Board of Directors of each school maintains its legal obligations for the governance and financial accountability of their respective school under civil law.

### New Name for Director of Education

The position of Director of Education has been changed to Superintendent which is the title used for those who are in charge of public school divisions in Manitoba. The Manitoba Catholic Schools Superintendent will be the delegate of the Archbishops in all matters pertaining to the Catholic school system in his Archdiocese and is responsible directly to them. The Superintendent will liaise with and make reports to the Board of Consultants. The primary responsibility of the Superintendent is to monitor concordance with the directives and approved Archdiocesan policies issued by each Archbishop. The Superintendent may also issue guidelines to assist and promote their implementation. The Superintendent in coop-

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eration with the Manitoba Catholic Schools Office will assist the Pastors, Consultors, Directors, Presidents, and Principals in carrying out their respective responsibilities.

The first Consultors were appointed in November, 2016 and the Board began to meet in January, 2017. Archbishops Gagnon and LeGatt are co-chairs of the Board. The Board is starting to explore the process of developing a strategic plan for Catholic schools in Manitoba.

### Conservative Government Elected

Manitoba elected a Progressive Conservative Government in April, 2016 under the leadership of Brian Pallister. In cooperation with the Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools (MFIS) we have started to build 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% 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 2017/18 school year, our provincial support grant will be \$5, 710 per full time student which represents 50% of the cost of educating our students if they were in public divisions in 2015/16. 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.

## Ontario



### OCSTA AGM and Awards

On April 28th, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association held its 87th Annual General Meeting in Toronto. Over 200 delegates attended this event to elect new regional representatives and to participate in the annual conference.

### OCSTA Regional Directors - Election Results:

#### Acclamations:

Region 1: Colleen Landers, Northeastern CDSB

Region 2: Paul Landry, Kenora CDSB

Region 3: Michael Bellmore, Sudbury CDSB

Region 5: Linda Ward, St. Clair CDSB

Region 9: Michelle Griepsma, Peterborough Victoria Northumberland & Clarington CDSB

Region 10: Todd Lalonde, CDSB of Eastern Ontario

Region 11: Clifford Casey, Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB and Arlene Iantomasi, Halton CDSB

#### Elections:

Region 4: Marino Gazzola, Wellington CDSB

### Trustee Award of Merit

Each year OCSTA selects a trustee who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and service to Catholic education to receive the Association's Award of Merit. The 2017 recipient is Renfrew County Catholic District School Board Trustee Andrew Bray. Andrew has served his board as a trustee for 33 years and contributed to a number of provincial education initiatives as a former member of OCSTA's Board of Directors.

### Student Trustee Alumnus Award

This year OCSTA introduced a new award that acknowledges former student trustees in Catholic schools who have exemplified through their post graduate pursuits, the values promoted in the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

Two student trustee alumni were selected for the 2017 award:

1. York Catholic District School Board alumna and social justice advocate Kristine Soufian. Kristine is a graduate of St. Joan of Arc Catholic High School in Maple and is now a teacher with the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

2. Durham Catholic District School Board alumnus and nationally acclaimed mental health awareness advocate, Ben Verboom. Ben is a graduate of Denis O'Connor Catholic High School in Ajax and is pursuing a PhD in Social Intervention at the University of Oxford.

### 25-Year Service Award

Many Catholic trustees dedicate a significant part of their lives to the service of their local schools and the goals of Catholic education in this province. To honour that contribution the Association awarded the following trustees with 25-year service awards:

Bruno Iannicca, Dufferin-Peel CDSB

Anita Mallette-Snobelen, St. Clair CDSB

Jim McCafferty, Durham CDSB

Barbara McCool, Nipissing-Parry Sound CDSB

Janice Oldman, Durham CDSB

Esther O'Toole, Dufferin-Peel CDSB

### Catholic Education Week

OCSTA's annual Catholic Education Week (CEW) took place April 30 – May 5, 2017. This year's theme was "Walking Forward Together."

CEW materials prepared for schools included two school resource kits (elementary and secondary) containing classroom activities, prayers and reflections. All are invited to visit the Catholic Education Week page on the OCSTA website to download this material, especially the mp3

file containing this year's wonderful Catholic Education Week Song, Walking Forward Together composed and performed by Dufferin-Peel CDSB teacher, Nancy Bodsworth.

## AFOCSC



### Cadre de rémunération des cadres supérieurs

Tel que mentionné auparavant, un comité directeur regroupant la présidence et la direction générale des quatre associations de conseils scolaires ainsi que des regroupements représentant des cadres supérieurs discutent depuis le mois de janvier d'une stratégie pour respecter le nouveau règlement qui gère la rémunération des cadres supérieurs.

Appuyé par la firme Mercer, professionnels dans la gestion des ressources humaines et des sciences actuarielles, le comité directeur travaille à adopter un cadre provincial pour la rémunération des cadres supérieurs dans les soixante-douze conseils scolaires de la province. Il est souhaité que ce cadre provincial soit communiqué aux conseils très prochainement pour validation.

Une fois validé, le règlement stipule que le cadre doit faire l'objet d'une consultation publique et que celui-ci doit être affiché sur le site Web du conseil scolaire pendant trente jours. Une fois ce processus complété, chaque conseil scolaire devra déterminer le salaire de ses cadres supérieurs. Une fois élaboré, l'AFOCSC aura à élaborer une stratégie de communication pour renseigner les conseillères et conseillers scolaires. Rappelons-nous que les salaires de cadres supérieurs dans les secteurs publics et parapublics ont été gelés depuis 2008.

### Congrès annuel de la National Catholic Education Association

Du 18 au 20 avril dernier, l'AFOCSC a participé au congrès annuel de l'Association nationale américaine de l'éducation catholique qui se déroulait à St. Louis. Plus de 20 000 congressistes y participaient et nous y avons retrouvé nos collègues canadiens de l'Association canadienne des commissaires d'écoles catholiques (ACCEC) et de l'Ontario Catholic School Trustee

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# Provincial Reports

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Association (OCSTA). Ce fut impressionnant de voir un tel nombre de personnes participer à la célébration eucharistique d'ouverture présidée par l'archevêque de St. Louis, son excellence Robert J. Carlson.

Les congressistes provenaient de tous les secteurs de l'éducation catholique ainsi que des parents, du personnel scolaire, des administrateurs et des membres du clergé. C'était très émouvant d'être entouré par tant de fidèles catholiques qui ont à cœur une éducation catholique pour les élèves d'âge scolaire ainsi que les étudiants post-secondaires. Plus de 250 ateliers étaient mis à la disposition des congressistes et portaient sur des sujets variés tels que la gouvernance, les relations publiques, la pédagogie, les meilleures pratiques, les politiques publiques et la foi catholique. Participer à ce congrès fut une occasion de se ressourcer et d'apprendre comment d'autres juridictions composent avec les défis qu'elles rencontrent pour offrir une éducation catholique de qualité. L'an prochain, ce congrès se déroulera à Cincinnati en Ohio du 3 au 5 avril 2018.

## AFOCSC

### Executive compensation framework

As previously mentioned, a steering committee consisting of the Presidency and the General Management of the four school board associations, as well as senior management groupings, has been discussing a strategy since January to comply with the new regulation that manages compensation for the senior executives.

Supported by Mercer, a professional firm specializing in human resources and actuarial sciences, the Steering Committee is working towards adopting a provincial framework for executive compensation in the province's 72 school boards. It is hoped that this provincial framework will be communicated to the councils very soon for validation.

Once validated, the regulations state that the framework must be publicly reviewed and posted on the school board's website for 30 days.

Once this process is completed, each school board will have to determine the salaries of its senior managers. Once developed, AFOCSC will have to develop a communication strategy to inform trustees. It is important to note that the salaries of executives in the public and parapublic sectors have been frozen since 2008.

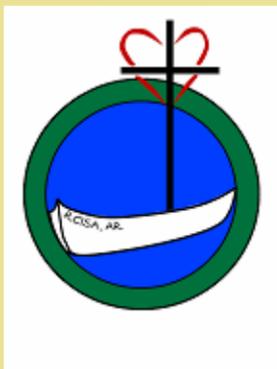
### Annual Congress of the National Catholic Education Association

From April 18 to 20, AFOCSC participated in the annual conference of the American National Association for Catholic Education held in St. Louis. More than 20,000 delegates attended and we met with our Canadian colleagues from the Canadian Catholic Schools Trustee Association (CCSTA) and the Ontario Catholic School Trustee

Association (OCSTA). It was impressive to see so many people participate in the Eucharistic opening celebration presided by the Archbishop of St. Louis, His Excellency Robert J. Carlson.

The congress participants came from all sectors of Catholic education, as well as parents, school staff, administrators and clergy. It was very moving to be surrounded by so many faithful Catholics who have a Catholic education at heart for school-age students as well as post-secondary students. More than 250 workshops were made available to delegates and covered topics such as governance, public relations, pedagogy, best practices, public policy and the Catholic faith.

Participating in the conference was an opportunity to recharge and learn how other jurisdictions are coping with the challenges they face in providing a quality Catholic education. Next year, this conference will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio from April 3 to 5, 2018.



## RCISA, AR

### Enrollment

The member Boards and schools of this association have had a good year overall - student numbers are up, the Catholic character of each school has been affirmed in numerous ways, student achievement in scholarship and a wide variety of competitions (music, ecology, public speaking, art...) has been notable, financial costs have been kept at reasonable levels, fund-raising activities have proven successful,

In terms of student registration, the numbers indicate an on-going stability, local and provincial restraints thus far having little or no effect. Two schools now offer pre-school; all schools full-day kindergarten. As well, there has been an increase in foreign students taking advantage of the Catholic schooling available to them. Such students return to their country of origin after the school term/year. Immigrant families are also settling in Eastern Canada and some clearly wish to send their children to the local Catholic school. Most such families need substantial financial support.

### Registration Fees

Registration fees have remained unchanged, though obviously that may need to change as Boards assess their year-end financial reports. At the moment, there is a wide range in those registration fees, in large part a consequence of such

factors as school size (five schools ranging in student population from 30 to 500), school age, upkeep challenges, operating costs, expansion consideration, teacher and administration salaries, and what local parents can bear.

### Bursary Programs

Bursary programs play a significant role in addressing parental needs for the registration of their children. Boards strive to ensure that their schools do not become elitist in regard to the financial capability of parents. Each year the demand for bursaries rises and arms-length committees make awards as can be borne through fund-raising activities. The CCSTA Endowment Fund with monies raised through its Toonies for Tuition campaign is a recognizable component of the various bursary programs. All schools are encouraged to participate in the Toonies campaign.

### Capital and Operating Costs

Capital and operating costs have been kept to a reasonable level, though each Board faces its own challenges - a roof replacement faces one school this year. Support from alumni and friends of the school goes a long way in addressing those needs - obviously the two schools with long histories (Sacred Heart of Halifax and St. Bonaventure's College) can draw on a deeper list of alumni. Support from the local business and wider community continues to be supportive.

### Political Outreach

On the political front, it is accurate to state that any interaction with local politicians - provincial or federal - is low-key at this point. All Boards were informed of CCSTA's political initiative earlier this spring and were encouraged to be in contact with their local MP; however, there has been little response. There are no doubt a variety of reasons for this. What this association will continue to do is provide such information as may be made available through CCSTA and encourage an interest in and response to achievements and challenges on a national level.

At the heart of the Boards in Atlantic Canada is the intent to ensure their schools reflect always the character of Catholic education. How that aim is interpreted depends entirely on the individual Board - two Boards, for example, operate their schools within the discernible charism of the Jesuits and the Sacred Heart Sisters; the other three schools within the domain of Catholic education philosophy. Yet all Boards welcome students who come from a wide variety of religious backgrounds; students who may be attracted to the school because of having been bullied elsewhere; students who come through international channels; students from families who are well-off financially and from families much less so. It is natural, therefore, that the members of these Boards participate both through their formal meetings and through special retreat days in prayer and reflection on what it means when they describe their school as a Catholic school.

# Chaplain's Corner

## Coping, Listening and Encouraging

*Note: After several years, Fr. Rémi Lessard has resigned as the CCSTA Chaplain. His commitment, effort and spiritual guidance over the past years to promote and protect Catholic education is laudable, and speaks volumes to his faith commitment and service to our Catholic community. We wish to thank Fr. Rémi for his contribution and commitment and blessings and good wishes to him. Cathy James will be writing this column until a replacement has been found.*

\*

*Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:9*

Last month, the school hallways were buzzing about the latest Netflix series, 13 Reasons Why. You may have heard about it as it's a series based on a young adult novel that depicts events leading to death by suicide of a young fictional character.

While the series may not pose risks for most youth, many worry that it has the potential for harm for youth who may be struggling with a mental health problem and/or suicidal ideation.

This series includes graphic content related to suicide, glamorization of suicidal behaviour, and negative portrayals of helpers (including guidance counselors) which may discourage or prevent youth from seeking help. This type of information can lead to misconceptions and misinformation about suicide, and possibly to the glorification of suicide and contagion.

Elizabeth Paquette, Chief psychologist for the Ottawa Catholic School Board, provided some great insight on how to have conversations with youth about the series and the topic at hand.



Here's a summary of Paquette's advice:

- Encourage critical thinking
- Offer Facts to Clarify Misinformation
- Encourage Healthy Coping
- Encourage Helping Seeking
- Encourage Caring Support

The insight Paquette provided is invaluable. Not just for this particular Netflix series, but for any situation when we're faced with tough conversation and hardship. By providing guiding questions, encouraging dialogue and actively listening, we're all better for it.

If we take a moment to reflect on the teachings from Jesus, he provides similar insight that inspires us to be more present with others and ensure each person is cared for and listened to in a respected and open manner.

## Encourager, écouter et s'adapter

*Note: Le Père Rémi Lessard a remis sa démission en tant qu'aumônier de l'ACCEC après de nombreuses années de service. Pendant tout ce temps, son travail, son engagement et son accompagnement spirituel pour la protection et la promotion de l'éducation catholique sont à la fois louables et constituent une démonstration tangible de son service à la communauté catholique et de sa foi. Nous tenons à remercier le Père Rémi pour l'ensemble de sa contribution et nous lui offrons nos meilleurs vœux. Jusqu'à ce que son poste soit comblé, ce sera Cathy James qui rédigera cette rubrique.*

\*

*Ce que vous avez appris, reçu et entendu de moi, et ce que vous avez vu en moi, pratiquez-le. Et le Dieu de paix sera avec vous. Philippiens 4:9.*

Le mois dernier, on ne parlait dans les corridors des écoles que de la plus récente série télévisée sur Netflix, 13 Reasons. Sans doute en avez-vous entendu parler puisqu'il s'agit de l'adaptation d'un roman pour jeune adulte qui décrit les événements menant au suicide du personnage principal.

Bien que cette série ne présente pas de risques pour la plupart des jeunes, plusieurs s'inquiètent de son impact éventuel sur des jeunes qui seraient aux

prises avec une maladie mentale ou qui auraient des idées suicidaires. On y est témoins de scènes explicites liées au suicide, d'une glorification du suicide et d'une représentation négative des intervenants, dont les conseillers ou conseillères en orientation, ce qui pourrait décourager certains jeunes de chercher de l'aide en cas de besoin. Ce genre de présentation peut créer des conceptions erronées et de la mésinformation au sujet du suicide et même une glorification de l'acte et un phénomène de contagion.

Elizabeth Paquette, psychologue en chef au Ottawa Catholic School Board, nous offre des pistes intéressantes sur la façon d'aborder la conversation avec les jeunes sur la série et sur le suicide en général. En voici un résumé :

- Susciter la pensée critique
- Présenter des faits pour dissiper la mésinformation
- Inciter à s'adapter sainement aux situations
- Encourager à chercher de l'aide
- Offrir un appui bienveillant

Ces conseils de Mme Paquette sont inestimables, non seulement dans le contexte de cette série télévisée, mais aussi dans toute situation ou conversation délicate. Suggérer des questions directrices, favoriser le dialogue et offrir une écoute active, voilà des stratégies gagnantes.

Si on réfléchit un moment aux enseignements de Jésus, on retrouve cette introspection qui nous inspire à être là pour les autres pour s'assurer que chacun soit écouté et entendu dans le respect et l'ouverture d'esprit.

Please mark these dates on  
your planning calendar:

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

• May 30-June 1, 2019  
CCSTA AGM/Convention  
Canmore, AB

*Stay up to date on the AGM details by visiting the CCSTA website at [www.ccsta.ca](http://www.ccsta.ca).*