

Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association

Association canadienne des commissaires d'écoles catholiques

CCSTA



June/Juin 2014

CCSTA NEWSLETTER/ COMMUNIQUÉ DE L'ACCEC

www.ccsta.ca

Welcome CCSTA 2014 Delegates and Guests! Bienvenue aux participants à l'AGA 2014 de l'ACCEC

As hosts of the 2014 CCSTA AGM and Conference, the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board is pleased to welcome you to Kingston, Ontario, where the St. Lawrence River meets Lake Ontario and the Rideau Canal. We look forward to being your hosts as you explore Kingston's World Heritage Sites, history, festivals, attractions, art, superb dining and shopping.

This year's conference theme "Living The Good News/Vivre La Bonne Nouvelle", and opening Ceremonies will begin June 5 with remarks from Archbishop Brendan O'Brien, Archbishop of Kingston, followed by the Keynote Speaker, Dr. Cristina Vanin, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, St. Jerome's University.

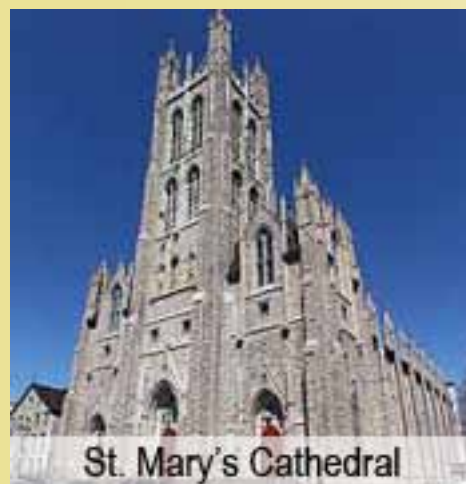
On Friday, June 6, we'll have welcoming remarks from the Mayor of Kingston, Mark Gerretsen, followed by a keynote speaker panel discussion which will include audience interaction. The morning and afternoon session workshops will include: The Poverty Challenge; Board Social Justice Committees; The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace; and Développement et Paix.

"Delegates will take away some of the practices we do in poverty and social justice work and will hopefully take it back to their boards and start practising that as well," explains organizing committee member Christine Martin.

Friday evening, delegates and guests will be transported in time at the Fort Henry National Historic Site of Canada for a sunset ceremony and dinner will be served by the soldier servants in uniforms from the nineteenth century in the historic setting of Fort Henry.



Kingston City Hall



St. Mary's Cathedral

The Kingston AGM planning committee is ready to showcase Kingston's landscapes and history. The committee members include, from left to right seated: Trustee Catharina Summers, Chair of the Board Tom Dall, Trustee Kathy Turkington. From left to right standing: Trustee Brian Kerby, Trustee Jim Kennelly, Vice-Chair of the Board John Brisbois, Trustee Wilf Garrah (deceased December 2013). The remaining members not pictured include Jody DiRocco, Director of Education; Laurie Morton, Administrative Assistant, and; Christine Martin, Office Administrator.

Le comité organisateur du congrès/AGA de Kingston veut mettre en valeur les sites et l'histoire de la ville. Voici les membres de ce comité: (de g. à dr.) assis - la conseillère Catharina Summers, le président du conseil Tom Dall et la conseillère Kathy Turkington; debout - les conseillers Brian Kerby et Jim Kennelly, le vice-président du conseil John Brisbois, le conseiller Wilf Garrah (décédé en décembre 2013); absents sur cette photo - Jody DiRocco, directeur de l'éducation, Laurie Morton, adjointe administrative, et Christine Martin, chef de bureau.

En tant qu'hôte du congrès/AGA de l'ACCEC 2014, le conseil Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board est heureux de vous accueillir à Kingston, en Ontario, là où se rencontrent le lac Ontario, le fleuve St. Laurent et la rivière Rideau. Il nous fera plaisir de vous faire découvrir Kingston: sites historiques, festivals, gastronomie et autres attractions.

Le congrès de cette année, sous le thème « Living The Good News/Vivre La Bonne Nouvelle », débutera le 5 juin avec les remarques de Mgr Brendan O'Brien, archevêque de Kingston, suivies de l'allocution de la conférencière principale, la Dr Cristina Vanin, professeure adjointe d'études religieuses à l'Université St. Jerome. Le vendredi 6 juin, le maire de Kingston, M. Mark Gerretsen s'adressera aux participants, après quoi suivra une table ronde avec interventions de l'auditoire. Parmi les sessions de la journée, on retrouvera : le défi de la pauvreté, les comités de justice sociale des conseils, la Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace et Développement et paix.

« Les participants découvrirons certaines de nos stratégies d'intervention en matière de pauvreté et de justice sociale et pourront les ramener dans leurs conseils pour les mettre en pratique, » dit Mme Christine Martin, membre du comité organisateur.

Vendredi soir, on amènera les participants à Fort Henry, lieu historique national du Canada, à temps pour une cérémonie du crépuscule et un dîner servi par des serveurs en costumes militaires du XIXe siècle du Fort Henry.

Samedi soir, il y aura la messe à la cathédrale St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, une superbe église de calcaire aux vitraux extraordinaires.

La soirée de banquet du samedi soir

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President's Message

As I near the end of my term as president, I am thinking about the significance of Catholic education in Canada. I wish to share with you that during my term I met many students, teachers, and leaders who are as enthusiastic as ever about the gift of Catholic education to Canadian society. I am especially proud of the dedicated trustees who work so hard to keep the faith by attending countless meetings and public events and building relationships within the faith community as well with other important education stakeholders. Catholic education in Canada is thriving and is more important than ever in helping build a civil society. The values that Catholic schools teach are consistent with a fair and just democratic society.

Denominational minority education rights were a contentious issue during the formation of this country, as well as during the entry of some of the provinces into confederation. However, compromise was achieved and the result is the fine democratic country we live in today. Contentious issues arise from time to time, but the need for the compromise to continue is as important as ever. Catholic education is a choice for a large number of Canadians. As Catholic educational leaders, we are called upon to continue to nurture the success of our Catholic schools, encourage our own Catholic community to avoid complacency, and to explain to the larger community the value of Catholic schools - whether it is in fully funded, partially funded or unfunded provinces.

There is a new excitement in the air with the election of Pope Francis who is refocusing the church on the basic teachings of Jesus. He is calling all of us, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, to practice mercy and justice and to build a better world based on recognition of the dignity of every human being. God knows the world is in need of healing. I have been fortunate to participate in a number of faith development sessions associated with the annual meetings of our provincial associations. All of them have focused on the new evangelization which emphasizes building a relationship with Jesus who is the model for leading a good life. The new evangelization does not reach out to foreign lands, but to our own children, parents, teachers and communities. So much good work is being done, and it is essential for us to continue sharing our stories of success and challenges across the country.

I was pleased to attend the National Parliamentary Breakfast in Ottawa recently and was encouraged to see the importance placed on bringing the faith dimension to the public sphere. I realize that we live in a secular society, but many of the values we hold dear come from the various faith dimensions we have in this country. Despite the misperception by some, secular society allows for freedom of religion not absence of religion. Catholics believe in a secular government informed by the rich variety of beliefs in this country.

I am looking forward to our Annual General Meeting and Convention in Kingston in June. Once again, we will have an opportunity to meet with delegates from across Canada and share in the wonderful program that has been prepared by the trustees and staff of Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board. Thank you in advance for the many months of hard work in putting this event together. Congratulations to Kevin Feehan, our 2014 Higgins Award Recipient, who will receive his award at the convention gala.

My term as president of CCSTA has been personally rewarding and inspiring. I believe in this organization, and I hope that my service has continued the legacy started back in the sixties. I followed in the footsteps of some remarkable people, and I know there are others who will continue this important work. I will continue to do what I can to support this organization and Catholic education in Canada. I am grateful to the many friends and supporters I encountered. I will treasure these relationships forever. I am especially thankful to the Board of Directors for their guidance and thoughtful and dedicated service. I am ever in debt to John Stunt, our Executive Director and Jean Montminy, our Executive Assistant, who have supported me in countless ways.

I wish to extend best wishes for a safe and relaxing summer to all of you who work in Catholic Education, and to your families. May God be with you!

Ted Paszek,
CCSTA President



CCSTA/ACCEC
President
Ted Paszek

Message de la présidente

Au moment où s'achève mon mandat de président, ma réflexion s'arrête sur l'importance de l'éducation catholique au Canada. Je tiens à vous dire que pendant ce mandat, nombreux sont les élèves, les enseignants et les dirigeants qui ont manifesté leur enthousiasme devant l'apport de l'éducation catholique à la société canadienne. Je suis particulièrement touché du dévouement des conseillers scolaires qui travaillent sans relâche, participant à de nombreuses rencontres et événements et cultivant des liens dans la communauté de foi comme avec les autres intervenants importants du monde de l'éducation. L'éducation catholique est florissante au Canada et son apport à la société est plus marquant que jamais. Les valeurs véhiculées par l'école catholique s'insèrent parfaitement dans une société démocratique juste.

Les droits des minorités confessionnelles ont été remis en question lors de la création de notre pays tout comme lors de l'accès de certaines provinces à la confédération. Cependant, certains compromis ont été nécessaires afin d'en arriver à la grande démocratie dans laquelle nous vivons aujourd'hui. De nouveaux litiges font parfois surface, qui exigent de nouveaux compromis. L'éducation catholique représente le choix d'un grand nombre de Canadiens. En tant que leaders en éducation catholique, nous avons le mandat de maintenir l'excellence de nos écoles, de stimuler notre communauté catholique pour éviter de sombrer dans la complaisance et de faire valoir au reste de la communauté la valeur de l'école catholique, que ce soit dans les provinces où elle est subventionnée ou non.

Il y a du renouveau dans l'air avec l'élection du pape François qui ramène l'église aux enseignements fondamentaux de Jésus. Il demande à tous, catholiques et non catholiques, de faire preuve de miséricorde et de justice pour créer un monde meilleur fondé sur la reconnaissance de la dignité de chaque être humain. Dieu sait que le monde a besoin de guérison. J'ai eu le privilège de participer à plusieurs sessions de formation de la foi dans le cadre des assemblées annuelles de nos associations provinciales. Toutes portaient sur la nouvelle évangélisation qui met l'accent sur la création des liens avec Jésus en tant que modèle de vie. La nouvelle évangélisation ne s'adresse pas à des pays lointains, mais à nos propres enfants, parents, enseignants et communautés. Il y a beaucoup d'excellentes initiatives en cours, et il est important de partager dans tout le pays nos pratiques réussies et nos défis.

J'ai récemment eu le plaisir de participer au Petit déjeuner-prière national à Ottawa, et j'ai été encouragé de voir l'importance qu'on accorde au sacré dans le domaine public. Je sais que nous vivons dans un monde séculier, mais plusieurs de nos valeurs fondamentales découlent des croyances auxquelles nous adhérons. Contrairement à la perception erronée de certains, une société séculière favorise la liberté de religion et non l'absence de religion. Les catholiques croient en un gouvernement séculier inspiré par la riche variété des croyances de notre pays.

J'anticipe l'arrivée de notre congrès/AGA de Kingston en juin prochain. J'aurai encore cette fois la chance de rencontrer des délégués de partout au Canada et de profiter de l'excellent programme élaboré par les conseillers et les membres du personnel de l'Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board. Nous vous remercions déjà pour ces mois de travail et de préparatifs en vue de cet événement. Félicitations à Kevin Feehan, récipiendaire du prix Higgins 2014, qui recevra son prix lors de la soirée de gala du congrès.

Ce mandat comme président de l'ACCEC m'a beaucoup apporté au niveau personnel. Je crois en cette organisation et j'espère avoir contribué à perpétuer la mission qu'elle s'est donnée lors de sa création dans les années soixante. J'ai suivi les traces de personnes remarquables et je sais que d'autres suivront après moi. Je continuerai à ma mesure d'appuyer cette organisation et l'éducation catholique au Canada. Je suis heureux d'avoir développé de nouvelles amitiés et de nouveaux appuis. Je chérirai ces liens pour toujours. Je suis particulièrement reconnaissant envers le conseil d'administration qui m'a guidé et accompagné de manière réfléchie et fidèle. Je remercie profondément John Stunt, notre directeur général, et Jean Montminy, notre adjointe de direction, qui m'ont aidé de multiples façons.

Je tiens à offrir mes meilleurs vœux pour un été de repos à vous tous qui oeuvrez en éducation catholique et à vos familles. Que Dieu vous accompagne!

Ted Paszek,
Président de l'ACCEC

Kingston Welcomes You!

FROM FRONT PAGE

Saturday evening, Mass will be held at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, which is a beautiful limestone Church with a magnificent stained glass window collection.

The conference will conclude with the Saturday evening Gala Banquet.

Throughout the week, student musical entertainment will remain a key feature for delegates.

From breathtaking landscapes to historical landmarks, the Kingston area offers the perfect backdrop for the AGM.

Delegates and Guests will be participating in a Trolley Tour of the City of Kingston and a tour of City Hall as well as a Kingston Thousand Islands Cruise. A companion program will also include a tour of Westport, Ontario where

there will be an opportunity to shop at the quaint stores and observe the scenic views on the way to Kilborn's on the Rideau, another shopping venue featuring many gift ideas. The conference hotels are situated in downtown Kingston, on the shores of Lake Ontario, which features shops, art galleries, museums, numerous restaurants and the Kingston Springer Market Square.

"Delegates and their partners have a lot of options at this year's AGM," adds Martin. "We are keeping them busy minute by minute, but they can explore the downtown core on their own. We have tried to put a nice twist on each central event and we truly do have something for everyone."



Kingston vous souhaite la bienvenue!

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clôturera le congrès.

Tout au cours de la semaine, les participants pourront profiter de prestations musicales d'étudiants.

Depuis ses paysages à couper le souffle et ses sites historiques, Kingston est une parfaite toile de fond pour ce congrès.

Les délégués et leurs invités participeront à une randonnée en tramway dans la ville de Kingston, une visite de l'hôtel de ville et une croisière dans les Mille-îles. Un programme supplémentaire offre aussi une visite de Westport pour y magasiner dans les petites boutiques et profiter des vues pittoresques sur la route de Kilborn's on the Rideau, un autre endroit de rêve où dénicher des cadeaux originaux.

Les hôtels associés au congrès sont situés au centre-ville de Kingston, sur les rives du lac Ontario, où l'on retrouve aussi plusieurs magasins, galeries d'art, musées, de nombreux restaurants et le Kingston Springer Market Square.

« Les délégués et leurs invités n'auront que l'embarras du choix au congrès de cette année, » ajoute Mme Martin. « Nous avons des activités pour les garder occupés à chaque instant, mais ils peuvent aussi explorer à leur propre rythme. Nous avons voulu donner une saveur spéciale à chaque événement principal et il y en a vraiment pour tous les goûts. »

Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board to pay tribute to long-serving trustee at CCSTA AGM

The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board wants to showcase its appreciation for a long-serving trustee who dedicated decades to Catholic education in Ontario. Wilf Garrah served for 29 years as a trustee for the school board, and is cited as one of the board's strongest advocates for Catholic education in its history.

Sadly, Mr. Garrah passed away in December, 2013 following a short battle with brain cancer. He leaves behind his wife, children and grandchildren as well as a group of Catholic education administrators and educators who fondly remember Wilf's dedication and contributions over the past three decades.

"Wilf was a strong advocate for and a great supporter of Catholic education and he brought that commitment to the board table throughout his tenure right to the very last meeting..." Jody DiRocco, director of education for the board, told the Kingston Whig-Standard newspaper. "I respected him as a trustee and enjoyed my relationship with him."



WILF GARRAH

Serving three terms as chair, Mr. Garrah represented the Kingston and Frontenac Islands.

Following his passing, the school board lowered its flags.

Yet the board wanted to do even more to showcase the great impact Mr. Garrah had during his tenure.

As the CCSTA 2014 AGM hosts, the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board decided to host a Toonies for Tuition fundraising raffle and name it after Mr. Garrah.

Named the Wilf Garrah Toonies for Tuition Raffle, the fundraiser will see delegates purchase raffle tickets with a draw for prizes on Saturday evening.

"It was a natural choice to name this fundraiser after Wilf, as it represents all the work he put into his passion for Catholic education," explains ALCDSB Communications Officer Mike Weaver. "This is just one minor way to pay tribute to Wilf."

For more information about what to expect at the AGM this June, please visit the CCSTA 2014 AGM website.

Le conseil Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board rend hommage à un conseiller scolaire chevronné lors de l'AGA de l'ACCEC

Le conseil Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board désire souligner publiquement les nombreuses années de service en éducation catholique en Ontario de l'un de ses conseillers. Wilf Garrah a été conseiller pendant 29 ans dans ce conseil et il était considéré comme l'un de ses plus assidus défenseurs de l'éducation catholique.

Malheureusement, M. Garrah est décédé en décembre 2013, suite à un bref combat contre un cancer au cerveau. Il laisse dans le deuil son épouse, ses enfants et ses petits-enfants ainsi qu'un groupe d'administrateurs et d'éducateurs catholiques qui se souviennent de son engagement et de son apport depuis presque trente ans.

« Wilf était un grand défenseur de l'éducation catholique et son engagement envers cette cause a été visible jusqu'à la toute dernière rencontre à laquelle il a participé... » confiait M. Jody DiRocco, directeur de l'éducation, au journal Whig-Standard de Kingston. « J'avais pour lui beaucoup de respect et j'ai apprécié les liens que nous avons développés. »

Représentant du secteur Kingston et Frontenac Islands, M Garrah avait com-

plété trois mandats en tant que président du conseil.

À son décès, le conseil a mis ses drapeaux en berne, mais désirait souligner davantage l'impact que M. Garrah a eu au cours de ses années de service. En tant qu'hôte du congrès/AGA de l'ACCEC pour 2014, le conseil a décidé d'organiser un tirage en guise de collecte de fonds pour Toonies for Tuition en l'honneur de M. Garrah.

Le tirage Wilf Garrah Toonies for Tuition Raffle proposera aux participants au congrès d'acheter des billets dont le tirage s'effectuera au cours de la soirée de samedi.

« Il était tout naturel d'associer le nom de Wilf à ce tirage, puisqu'il illustre la passion qu'il vouait à l'éducation catholique, » indique M. Mike Weaver, agent des communications au ALCDSB. « Ce n'est qu'une façon toute simple de lui rendre hommage. »

Pour plus de détails sur le programme du congrès/AGA de juin, veuillez consulter le site web de l'AGA de l'ACCEC 2014.



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.

2013-2014

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From the Office Desk...



A year certainly goes by quickly at CCSTA, especially a year in which we put on a National Conversation Conference as we did this year in Ottawa.

The planning, coordination and the logistics of putting on a national conference consume much time and energy. Thankfully that time and energy are provided, for the most, by our local organizing committee who once again this year performed exceedingly well under the coordination of Gerry Bibby. The board has decided to take a break from the National Conversation Conference for the time being, with the intent to incorporate some of its features at the Annual General Meeting/

Convention.

As Ontario is immersed in a general election, the usual "one school system" proponents step forward to try to make the funding of Catholic schools an election issue. An earlier court ruling this year drew attention to the issue, where an Ontario court ruled that non-Catholic students attending Catholic secondary schools could be exempt from attending Mass and school retreats. This elicited a response from our detractors to rally for the elimination of funding for Catholic schools.

This is a time of vigilance, and demands extra effort from our trustees' association in the funded provinces to step up efforts to "promote and protect" Catholic education in their jurisdictions.

As a national trustees association, CCSTA has its role to play in keeping our Catholic schools alive and well across Canada. Recently we published a document "What are the Benefits of membership in CCSTA". Here are some excerpts from the document:

- A unified voice for English and French language Catholic education across Canada.
- A collaborative and supportive relationship with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- Monitoring of legal and other issues that could impact Catholic education across Canada.
- Co-ordination of collective efforts of other school board associations, school boards/districts and independent schools in addressing issues in Catholic education.
- Political outreach to MPs and Senators, and government relations activities at the national level.
- Liaison with other Catholic organizations and movements across Canada.
- Co-ordination of resources for legal issues and court challenges to Catholic education rights.
- Provision of quality faith formation and professional development opportunities for trustees and senior staff at the AGM/Convention and the National Conversation of Catholic education.
- A National communication hub for Catholic education through sharing of "good news" stories monthly on our website, bi-annual electronic newsletters, and board highlights documents.
- Fundraising through the Toonies for Tuition program and distribution of funds through a foundation board to help defray tuition expenses for parents in the non-funded or partially funded provinces. To date, more than \$231,800 has been raised and distributed.
- Provision of the annual Justice James Higgin's Award that recognizes persons from across Canada for their contribution to Catholic education.

A combined provincial and national effort will ensure Catholic education will thrive into the future.

As our year comes to a close, I am grateful to President, Ted Paszek, and the board for their support and cooperation. Jean Montminy continues to provide excellent executive assistant support and keeps the office running on a day to day basis. I am blessed to work with such fine people.

I trust the summer months will provide you with time for reflection and renewal, and above all, some warmth after a long winter and cool spring. Prayerful best wishes to all.

Kind Regards,

John Stunt
Executive Director

Nouvelles du bureau central

Une année passe vite à l'ACCEC, surtout lorsque l'organisation du congrès L'Éducation catholique : un échange national en fait partie.

La planification, la coordination et la logistique d'un tel congrès national requiert passablement de temps et d'énergie. Heureusement, une bonne partie de ce temps et de cette énergie nous est fourni par notre comité organisateur local qui s'est encore une fois distingué sous la coordination de M. Gerry Bibby. Le conseil a décidé de mettre de côté cet événement pour le moment pour plutôt en incorporer certaines composantes lors du congrès/assemblée générale annuelle.

Puisque l'Ontario est présentement en pleine élection provinciale, les défenseurs du prin-

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cipe d'un « système scolaire unique » tentent de faire de la subvention aux écoles catholiques une question électorale. Plus tôt cette année, la décision d'une cour ontarienne ayant statué que les élèves non catholiques fréquentant l'école catholique peuvent être exemptés d'assister à la messe et de participer aux retraites d'école a ramené la question à l'avant-plan. Cette décision a provoqué chez nos détracteurs un ralliement pour l'élimination des subventions à l'école catholique.

Nous devons donc redoubler de vigilance, ce qui exigera des efforts additionnels de la part de nos associations de conseillers scolaires, afin de promouvoir et protéger l'éducation catholique dans leurs régions.

En tant qu'association nationale de conseillers scolaires, l'ACCEC joue un rôle important pour garder nos écoles vivantes et prospères partout au Canada. Nous avons récemment publié un dépliant intitulé « Les avantages d'être membre de l'ACCEC ». En voici un extrait :

- Présenter une voix unifiée pour l'éducation catholique en français et en anglais dans tout le Canada.
- Maintenir une collaboration et un lien d'appui avec la Conférence des évêques catholiques du Canada.
- Assurer un suivi des questions juridiques et autres qui pourraient affecter l'éducation catholique au Canada.
- Coordonner les efforts communs des associations des autres conseils ou districts scolaires et des écoles indépendantes pour s'occuper des questions d'éducation catholique.
- Sensibiliser les députés et les sénateurs et organiser des activités pour promouvoir les liens avec le gouvernement fédéral.
- Cultiver les liens avec les autres organisations et mouvements catholiques au Canada.
- Coordonner les ressources d'ordre juridique lors de procès pour limiter les droits à l'éducation catholique.
- Fournir des opportunités de formation de la foi et d'apprentissage professionnel pour les conseillers et les cadres lors des congrès/AGA et lors de l'Échange national sur l'éducation catholique.
- Constituer un centre de communication national pour l'éducation catholique en partageant mensuellement les pratiques réussies sur notre site web, deux fois l'an par nos bulletins électroniques et grâce aux communiqués sur les faits saillants des réunions du conseil d'administration.
- Amasser des fonds à l'aide du programme Toonies for Tuition et les distribuer grâce à un organisme indépendant pour aider les parents à défrayer les coûts d'inscription dans les provinces où les subventions à l'école catholique font défaut. À ce jour, plus de 231 800\$ ont été amassés et distribués.
- Offrir annuellement le prix Justice James Higgins pour souligner une contribution exceptionnelle à l'éducation catholique au Canada.

Nos efforts conjugués au niveau national et au niveau provincial assureront la prospérité de l'école catholique.

Au moment où notre année tire à sa fin, je veux remercier le président, M. Ted Paszek, et le conseil d'administration pour leur appui et leur coopération, ainsi que Mme Jean Montminy, notre adjointe administrative, qui nous offre son précieux appui et assure un bon fonctionnement journalier. C'est un privilège de travailler avec eux.

J'espère que les mois d'été vous permettront de vous ressourcer, et surtout qu'ils vous prodiguent un peu de chaleur après un long hiver et un printemps tardif. Je vous offre mes meilleurs vœux et mes prières.

Sincèrement,

John Stunt
Directeur général

A Story with a Vision: Catholic education advocate and author releases new book

Bonaventure Fagan had a vision to share the story behind the founding of Catholic independent and private schools across Canada, and so that's exactly what he did.

Mr. Fagan, a nationally known advocate for Catholic education, has recently released his second book, *Vision: Founding Catholic Independent/Private Schools in Canada*.

The Newfoundland-based author says his book explores what may seem like a simple question: what is involved in establishing a Catholic independent/private school in Canada? Mr. Fagan explores the driving force behind any such process, which is the vision, as well as the underlying concept that provides the motivation to begin the project and the drive to see it through to completion, showcasing that the answer to his question has depth and history running back to the country's settlement days.

"Canada has a rich mix of Catholic schools, those that are in place because of constitutional provisions and those which have no such provisions," Mr. Fagan explains. "The majority of studies on Catholic education has focused understandably on the constitutional and attendant matters. This study recognizes the need for studies on those schools identified as independent or private."

In the exploration, the first three chapters examine the meaning of that vision, the philosophy of education that attends such schools currently operating in Canada, and the history of Catholic education in this country. The last three chapters examine such matters as the varying provincial legislation pertinent to independent/private schools, the financial challenges attendant to such

schools, and the matter of governance.

The major part of the research for *Vision...* was undertaken in the winter of 2012-13. The book thus uses the 2012-13 school year as the basis for much of the information presented. With most schools in Canada having its own websites, Mr. Fagan was able to access pertinent data as well a statement of principles under which the school operates. In addition, he made good use of various printed documents, including legislation, books, and articles.

When putting this book together, Mr. Fagan spoke to the foremost players; that is, the parents who wish to see their children have the opportunity to attend a Catholic school in order to receive a solid academic centre that reflects their religious beliefs and moral convictions. The story outlines the rich contribution of the many bishops, priests, religious congregations and lay persons to Catholic education in every province and territory.

Mr. Fagan wanted to tell this side of the story for a reason.

"In the current debate in some provinces about the appropriateness of continuing to provide public funding to Catholic schools, it seems all too often forgotten the very significant contribution Catholic education has made to the development of Canadian society from the very first days of European settlement," he explains. "That story needs to be told and retold. Questionable and negative chapters, such as those that involve First Nations children in particular, we humbly acknowledge as part of the slow maturing of Canadian attitudes. Were the Catholic education story understood as fully as it ought to be, it would be cherished and protected by all citizens."



Bonaventure Fagan's latest book, *Vision: Founding Catholic Independent/Private Schools in Canada* is now available for purchase through ADDA at: ADDA Press, 22 Dorset Street, St. John's, NL, A1B 1W9 or by e-mail: bfagan@nf.aibn.com

CCSTA Names Kevin Feehan as 2014 Higgins Award Recipient

Kevin Feehan not only lives his Catholic faith, but he integrates it into his professional life as well. A practising lawyer living in Edmonton, Alberta, Mr. Feehan has consistently given back to the Catholic education community for three decades.

His dedication to working to ensure Canadians have fair and proper access to Catholic education is precisely why he was nominated and awarded the 2014 Justice James Higgins Award.

The CCSTA's Higgins Award is presented annually in memory of Canadian Catholic school trustee and jurist, the Honourable Justice James Higgins. It reflects recognition of an exceptional contribution to Catholic education in Canada.

Nominated by the Calgary Catholic School District, Mr. Feehan has demonstrated time and again just how much Catholic education means to him.

Coming from a family lineage involved in Catholic education, Kevin Feehan has been rooted in the system since his early childhood. Nearly 10 years following his graduation from the University of Alberta Law School, Mr. Feehan's relationship with the Alberta Catholic education community deepened.

In 1988, The Alberta School Act

was substantially re-written and the proposed amendments would have affected Catholic schools' rights. The then superintendent of Catholic education in Edmonton approached Mr. Feehan, asking for his support against the changes.

Mr. Feehan attended, and spoke at, a rally that cried out against the changes, which included access to a taxation base and the management and control of trustees over the schools. Researching the amendments, Mr. Feehan outlined at the rally just what these proposed changes meant for Catholic schools across Alberta.

"It was an important community effort in 1988 to preserve Catholic education in Alberta," says Mr. Feehan.

That rally ignited Mr. Feehan's involvement in providing legal support to Catholic schools across the province and the nation. He has made himself available to the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association and to individual school boards to assist in legal matters that deal with the many facets of Catholic education.

"Mr. Feehan has devoted himself to the promotion of, and defense of, Catholic education," Mary Martin, Chair of the Calgary Catholic School District's Board of Trustees, wrote in

her nomination paper. "He is deserving of the CCSTA Justice James Higgins Award not only because he understands the importance of Catholic education to families, but because he understands its role as central to the fabric of our country."

Mr. Feehan stands behind his work.

"I fundamentally believe in the principles of Catholic education. We need a system founded on the principles of the gospel in which the messages of the Catholic Church are fully permeated in a school setting," he explains. "A Catholic point of view should permeate every aspect of the system."

Letters of reference were included in Mr. Feehan's nomination, including recommendations from Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association Past President Sandra Bannard, former Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench in Alberta Allan Wachowich, and Fr. Stefano Penna of the Newman Theological College.

When he learned these three people had backed the nomination, Mr. Feehan was gracious for their support.

"I'm humbled that they would support my nomination when in fact they have done as much or more over the years to promote Catholic education," he explains. "These three people are



Kevin Feehan

people who have lived and breathed and laboured for Catholic education, and each of them could be Higgins Award winners."

Married with four children and five grandchildren, Mr. Feehan looks at his family when reflecting on the future of Catholic education in both Alberta and Canada.

"Catholic education had an effect on my children's lives and I want to make sure it's vibrant and alive and well for my grandchildren and their children as well."

Mr. Feehan will accept his award at the CCSTA Annual General Meeting this June in Kingston, Ontario.

L'ACCEC décerne le prix Higgins 2014 à M. Kevin Feehan

Kevin Feehan met en pratique sa foi catholique tout en l'intégrant à sa vie professionnelle. Avocat de profession à Edmonton, M. Feehan redonne à l'éducation catholique depuis trente ans.

Son engagement à faire en sorte que les Canadiens puissent accéder de façon juste et équitable à l'école catholique est précisément ce qui lui a valu sa mise en candidature pour le prix James Justice Higgins et ce pourquoi il se l'est vu accorder.

Le prix Higgins de l'ACCEC est remis annuellement en mémoire d'un conseiller scolaire catholique et juriste reconnu, l'honorable juge James Higgins. Ce prix souligne une contribution exceptionnelle à l'éducation catholique au Canada.

Mis en candidature par la Calgary Catholic School District School, M. Feehan a toujours démontré l'importance que l'éducation catholique revêt pour lui.

Issu d'une famille depuis longtemps impliquée en éducation catholique, M. Feehan fait partie de ce système depuis sa tendre enfance. Près de dix ans après sa graduation de l'école de Droit de l'Université de l'Alberta, sa relation avec la

communauté scolaire catholique de l'Alberta s'est vue affermie.

En 1988, la Loi scolaire de l'Alberta a été révisée, proposant des modifications qui auraient mis en péril les droits des écoles catholiques. Le surintendant des écoles catholiques de l'époque a alors demandé l'appui de M. Feehan pour contrer ces changements.

M. Feehan a alors présenté une allocution et participé à un rassemblement qui s'insurgeait contre les modifications qui touchaient au contrôle et à la base de l'imposition ainsi qu'à la marge de contrôle des conseillers scolaires sur les écoles. Comme il avait étudié les amendements proposés, il a parlé des changements qu'ils allaient imposer aux écoles catholiques de l'Alberta.

« En 1988, nous avons vécu un important effort communautaire pour préserver l'éducation catholique en Alberta, » dit M. Feehan.

C'est suite à ce rassemblement que M. Feehan a voulu fournir son appui juridique aux écoles catholiques de la province et du pays. Il a offert ses services à l'Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association ainsi qu'aux conseils scolaires dans les

composantes légales liées aux divers aspects de l'éducation catholique.

« M. Feehan s'est consacré à la promotion et à la défense de l'éducation catholique, » disait dans sa lettre de mise en candidature Mme Mary Martin, présidente du conseil Calgary Catholic School District's Board. « Il mérite le prix Higgins de l'ACCEC non seulement parce qu'il comprend l'importance de l'éducation catholique pour les familles, mais aussi parce qu'il réalise son rôle dans la création du tissu social de notre pays. »

M. Feehan est fier de son travail.

« Je crois fermement dans les principes de l'éducation catholique. Nous avons besoin d'un système basé sur les principes de l'Évangile où ses enseignements font entièrement partie intégrante de tous les aspects de la vie scolaire, » explique-t-il. « Le point de vue catholique doit se retrouver dans chacun des aspects du système. »

Les lettres de recommandation accompagnant la mise en candidature de M. Feehan provenaient entre autres de Mme Sandra Bannard, ex-présidente de l'Alberta Catholic

School Trustees' Association, de M. Allan Wachowich, ex-juge en chef du Barreau de la cour de la Reine en Alberta, et du père Stefano Penna, du Newman Theological College.

M. Feehan s'est dit honoré de leur appui.

« Je suis flatté d'un tel appui de la part de gens qui au cours des ans, ont fait bien plus que moi pour promouvoir l'éducation catholique, » dit-il. « Ces trois personnes ont respiré, vécu et travaillé pour l'éducation catholique. Chacun d'entre eux pourrait être récipiendaire du prix Higgins. »

Marié, père de quatre enfants et grand-père de cinq petits-enfants, M. Feehan tient compte de sa famille lorsqu'il considère l'avenir de l'éducation catholique en Alberta et au Canada.

« L'éducation catholique a eu un impact positif sur la vie de mes enfants et je veux m'assurer qu'elle soit bien en santé pour le bien de mes petits-enfants et de leurs enfants. »

M. Feehan recevra son prix en juin prochain lors de l'assemblée générale annuelle à Kingston, en Ontario.

Provincial Reports

British Columbia

From the Catholic Independent Schools Committee in beautiful British Columbia (CISCBC), warm greetings to you all!

For those of you that know little about the BC Catholic School System, there are 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.

BC Ministry of Education

May 14 saw the re-election of the Liberal Party under the leadership of Premier Christie Clark. We are blessed that the Liberals fully support “educational choice” in BC as well as maintaining the financial support that independent schools currently receive. The Ministry sees the “Face of Education” as both public and independent.

The Ministry of Education is in the process of overhauling the entire education system in BC. The new BC Education Plan has 5 key elements: personalized learning, flexibility and choice, quality teaching and learning, high standards, and learning empowered by technology.

The Education Budget remains unchanged for 2014, therefore the preliminary per student operating grant estimates for the upcoming school year have remained relatively the same as well. As always, this continues to impact all schools, making it extremely difficult to meet the demands of competitive salaries, acquiring new resources, technology needs, and facility maintenance and upgrades.

The Ministry of Education provided Level One ERASE Bullying Training sessions throughout the province this year, and more information can be found at www.erasebullying.ca.

Federation of Independent Schools Association (known as FISA BC)

The Federation of Independent School Associations, established in 1966, is an umbrella organization for all independent schools in BC. “With a united voice, FISA BC advocates for parental choice, recognition and funding; supports independent school associations in their pursuit of excellence; strengthens educational practice and contributes to the public good.” (April 2014 newsletter) It acts as a liaison between the schools and the government, and other educational institutions. No individual school or association lobbies the government on its own behalf. The FISA is dedicated to assisting independent schools in

maintaining their independence while seeking fair treatment for them in legislative and financial terms. Due to the major reorganization recently at the Ministry of Education, a rebuilding of relationships has been required.

The FISA’s mission, 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.

The FISA, a 15 member board, continues to be invited to attend meetings, give presentations, and sit on committees and dialogue with many organizations. The Catholic Independent Schools (CIS) group is one of the five associations within the FISA. Three CIS members are elected as representatives to the FISA Board. Members to the FISA Board ensure that the “Catholic” voice is heard. Doug Lauson, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Vancouver Archdiocese, has been president of the FISA since 2003.

Statistics recently published by the FISA indicate that there are 289 independent schools in BC accounting for 12% of all BC students. 29% of those students attend the 78 Catholic schools in the Province. Independent schools receive 5.3% of the Education Budget.

This past year the FISA BC:

- “continues to work to ensure that independent schools remain property tax exempt. This work is occurring on two levels: an appeal to the BC Assessment Appeal Board is underway, while FISA BC simultaneously lobbies government politicians and officials for stronger legislation guaranteeing continued property tax exemption for independent schools.
- is working with the Ministry of Education to provide Level Two ERASE (Expect Respect and A Safe Education) Bullying training for independent schools that are requesting information on basic threat and risk assessment in schools.
- worked with BC Hydro and Fortis to implement free energy-saving assessments to identify cost savings for independent schools.
- continued to lobby the government on property tax protection, access to unused public property, access to low interest loans for capital initiatives involving student safety and including trades and technology initiatives.
- made a presentation to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (SSCFGS) in support of special education funding for challenged students in independent schools that is proportional to Learning Improvement Fund funding available to public schools.” (April 2014 and December 2013 FISA newsletters)

CISCBC (Catholic Independent Schools Committee of BC)

The Superintendents and a representative from each diocese in BC meet two times each year to work together on areas of common interest and concern. In addition, the five Bishops attended the first meeting of the year which was held in November. The CISCBC continues to work to meet the goals of their strategic planning document.

Recent accomplishments include the:

- development of a CISBC website to be launched in the next month or two.
- development of a BC Catholic Schools are Hiring poster to be sent to universities across the country as it is becoming increasingly difficult to acquire quality teachers who are practicing



Catholics.

- expanded use of technology for meeting purposes across our diverse geography.

Our theme for next year’s Catholic Schools’ Week is Live the Joy of the Gospel.

We wish Joe Colistro, Superintendent of Island Catholic Schools, all the best as he heads to Alberta as Deputy Superintendent for Medicine Hat Catholic.

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!

Alberta/NWT

Advocacy

The ACSTA provides on-going education, advocacy and legal counsel to our member boards.

Faith Development

The ACSTA ensures that our members continue to have opportunities for faith development through hosting various workshops and conferences.

In addition, ACSTA organized a symposium, on February 21-22, 2104, on the state of Catholic education today, Growing Forward: Catholic Education Symposium. The symposium allowed the community to survey the current landscape and, with the help of keynote speakers Dr. Reginald Bibby and Archbishop Michael Miller, to chart a path forward.

The annual SPICE and Blueprints retreats were held from May 1-4, 2014 and from May 6-9, respectively. Both retreats were held at the Delta Lodge Kananaskis and featured keynote speaker David Wells.

Communications

The ACSTA continues to send ACSTA Happenings, a monthly e-newsletter, to its member boards and education stakeholders detailing the current activities and issues in which the ACSTA is involved. Furthermore our Catholic Dimension newspaper continues to be published online, twice annually at <http://www.acsta.ab.ca/publications/catholic-dimension>.

The ACSTA continues its work with Orange Fountain video production company to create a professional video on value, diversity and excellence of Catholic education. This video, in its final stages of production, will be used for advocacy purposes and posted on our website.

The ACTSA is once again holding its GRACE Student Video contest. Open to all junior high and high school students, the contest is meant to encourage students to create a short (max 2min)

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video on what their Catholic education means to them. For more details visit: <http://www.acsta.ab.ca/resources/acstavideocontest>

Governance

On November 16 and 17, the ACSTA held its Annual General Meeting. At the AGM, Elk Island Catholic Trustee, Tony Sykora, was acclaimed for another term as President and Calgary Catholic Trustee, Serafino Scarpino, was acclaimed for another term as Vice-President.

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.



Following a successful first event in 2012, another joint conference between the SCSBA and the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS) is scheduled for this fall. (Photo: Archdiocese of Regina)

Saskatchewan

Theodore Litigation

On October 1, 2013 the Theodore Litigation continued with a hearing in Yorkton. The hearing was to deal with an application from Public Section to compel responses to undertakings. Justice Mills has made a decision related to undertaking and the process continued with Examinations for Discovery on March 20/21, 2014. Lawyers questioned Darrell Zaba from Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools and Dwayne Reeve from Good Spirit School Division. The Ministry's Proper Officer is yet to be examined. When undertakings are received from these two gentlemen the lawyers will determine if there is a need for further Examinations for Discovery. To prepare for the upcoming court case we have contracted researchers to provide background information for our defence and possibly to serve as expert witnesses if needed. We do not anticipate further preliminary legal processes to be scheduled until the fall and it is likely that the trial will begin in early 2015.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee has been very active during the past year. The Committee has revised the SCSBA website and created an on-line presence using Twitter. At the September Board of Directors meeting it was agreed that the SCSBA would engage in a "Faith in Our Students Campaign" to actively promote Catholic Education within the province. The SCSBA has hired a part-time Communications Coordinator to manage and direct this new campaign. This has involved creating a partnership with Regina Catholic Schools to contract time from an individual who will begin work in September of 2014.

This Committee has also produced documentation related to the Theodore Litigation entitled "Theodore Litigation History and Overview". This material has been shared with each Board and is to be shared with staff members and Catholic partners as we get closer to the date of the actual trial.

Curriculum Permeation Project

The Committee has distributed final documentation piloted during the 2012/2013 school year. In the summer of 2013 writers were contracted to complete documents for ELA A10 and B10. At the April meeting the group decided on hiring writers

to develop resources for ELA 20 and ELA 30, during the summer of 2014. There continues to be a concerted effort to ensure that all resources that have been developed are posted on our website as soon as possible.

Catholic Studies Grades 9 - 12 Locally Developed Program

At the January meeting of the SCSBA Education Committee it was agreed to proceed with the formation of a Provincial Steering Committee to facilitate the development of a locally developed Religion Program for Grades 9 - 12. The Committee has met a number of times and has hired a writer to begin work in September of 2014. The plan is to pilot Grades 9/10 in February of 2015 and Grades 11/12 in September of 2015. The Committee was very pleased to receive final confirmation that the Ministry will provide \$45,000.00 to fund the writer for this program.

SCSBA/CHAS Joint Conference

In November of 2012 we hosted a successful Joint Conference with the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS). Feedback from both groups was very positive and we have agreed to host another Joint Conference in 2014. The Planning Committee has met and finalized the dates of October 24 - 26, 2014. The Conference will be held at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel in Saskatoon. Once again it will include a Youth Day with youth from across the province celebrating their faith prior to the conference.

K - 8 Religion Program Development

Saskatchewan representatives are working with people from Ontario and Alberta in the development of a new K - 8 Religion Program, which will replace the "Born of the Spirit" Program presently being used. This is a collaborative effort between OCSTA, ACSTA, SCSBA and the Bishops of the three provinces. Work has begun on the Grade 1 Program, with the hope that it will be completed by June of 2014.

Proposed Catholic School Division Formation in Warman

Ratepayers in the City of Warman have received the Minister's Order to form a new Catholic School Division. Nominations closed on April 23rd for the election of the new Board and five members were acclaimed. The first Board meet-

ing was held on April 29, 2014. It is anticipated that the Board will approach Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools to discuss a possible amalgamation. The Ministry of Education has approved the building of a new joint-use Catholic/Public School in the City of Warman, which could possibly be opened as soon as September of 2016.

Government of Saskatchewan Announces Nine New Joint-Use Schools

In October of 2014 the Minister of Education announced the building of nine new joint-use Catholic/Public Schools. These schools will be built in four different communities using the Public Private Partnership (P3) process. The Minister is hopeful that construction will begin sometime in 2015.

This is an unprecedented announcement within our province and we recognize this as a strong endorsement for Catholic Education in Saskatchewan.

SCSBA Office Relocation

Effective July 1, 2014 the SCSBA office will be relocated in North Battleford. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Light of Christ RCSSD #16 for providing office space for the past seven years. Following is the new SCSBA office address: 9007 - 16th Avenue, North Battleford, Sk., S9A 2T6.

Manitoba

Catholic Schools in Manitoba have a long tradition and an excellent reputation in the community. They are owned by parishes, either archdiocese, or religious orders. All Catholic Schools in Manitoba belong to the Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools (MFIS).

Government Funding Increase

During the spring of 2014, Manitoba's NDP Government announced funding for independent schools as a 3.7% increase over last year's per pupil grant amount. In 2014/15, schools will receive \$5,214 per full time equivalent pupil plus

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an additional \$60 textbook grant per FTE student. This per pupil grant is equivalent to 50% of the provincial average per pupil expenditure, minus specific deductions, of the public school divisions in 2012/13. The remainder of the cost of educating a child is covered by tuitions which range from \$800 to \$7000 per student, fundraising, parish contributions, and reduced wages paid to teachers in most schools who earn 60% to 90% of their counterparts in public schools. Despite this, we have no difficulty attracting high quality dedicated teachers.

Enrolment Growth

As of September 30th 2013, Manitoba's Catholic schools reported to Government an enrolment of 5018 students (K-12), which was comprised of 1599 students in the schools of the CSC and 3419 students in the AWCS. While individual schools have seen fluctuating enrolments over the years, the overall enrolment trend for Manitoba's Catholic schools has been a very slight incremental growth – approximately 1% per year over the last 10 years.

Most of our elementary schools also operate Pre-Kindergarten or Nursery programs but do not receive government funds for these students.

Infrastructure

Catholic Schools do not receive capital funding in Manitoba, which puts an additional strain on communities to fundraise in order to upkeep buildings. This also prevents them from expanding when there is increased demand. Many of our schools have waiting lists. There has been no new Catholic school opened in Winnipeg since the 1960s but many have undergone extensive renovations and additions since that time. Many schools have had to replace heating and cooling systems, windows, roofs, and lighting in the past few years. Schools have also fundraised to purchase new computers and smart boards so they can continue to incorporate technology into the curriculum. Immaculate Heart of Mary, our Ukrainian Catholic School, has purchased property and has begun a campaign to raise the fifteen million dollars required to build a new building. St. Peter's Parish is currently exploring the possibility of building a new K-8 school in the growing northwest quadrant of the city.

Close Bonds

The parochial school system of Manitoba has created a situation where there are strong bonds between schools and parishes. All share buildings and/or property. The school is seen as a key ministry of the parish. Parishioners volunteer in the school and help to financially support it. Pastors are often in the schools on a daily basis and are key players on the school's board of directors. Each Catholic School has its own board of directors. Pastor, school and parish relationships are important factors in Catholic Education in Manitoba. Three of our schools are still owned and operated by religious orders.

The central organizations of Catholic Schools of Manitoba are under the direction of the Bishops. The Archdiocese of Winnipeg Catholic Schools (AWCS) and the Catholic Schools Commission (CSC) which represents the eight schools in the Archdiocese of St. Boniface and the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy will be completing the 9th year of their service contract. In this arrangement, the AWCS office provides administrative and sup-

port services to the CSC schools. The AWCS Director of Education and staff are employees of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

Bill 18

The Government of Manitoba passed Bill 18, Safe and Caring Schools Charter this past October. It is an amendment to the Public Schools Act. Catholic Schools will be required to follow the Act as a requirement of the Minister of Education as per section 60(5) of the Public Schools Act that lists the requirements of independent schools to receive funding. The Bishops of Manitoba and the AWCS office have developed a new Respect for Human Dignity and Equality Policy to meet the requirements of having a diversity policy. We choose this name as it reflects the Catholic view towards diversity. We have also developed Administrative Guidelines for Student Groups in Catholic Schools to meet the requirements of legislation. We will be accommodating students who wish to form Respecting Human Dignity and Equality groups or similar groups including Gay Straight Alliances but within the context of Catholic teachings. Workshops were held in December to assist staff in this process.

Words of Thanks

We would like to thank all those who came to Winnipeg last year for the AGM. It was a real pleasure to play host to the Canadian Catholic Schools Trustees Association and all the wonderful people who serve and support Catholic education across the country.

Ontario

Bill 122

With the passage of Bill 122, the School Boards' Collective Bargaining Act, on April 8, 2014, OCSTA officially takes on the role of designated bargaining agent for Ontario's Catholic school boards.

The Bill contains much of the legislative structure that the Association had put forward based on the input of our members during various labour seminar discussion sessions held in 2013.

On February 26, 2014, OCSTA president, Marino Gazzola had the opportunity to present to the Standing committee on Bill 122. During that presentation he provided suggestions for amendments to the Bill—many of which were accepted and reflected in the final legislation.

2014 Municipal Election

In preparation for the fall 2014 municipal election, Ontario's four trustee associations have agreed to collaborate on an initiative to raise awareness about the role of school trustees and to increase voter engagement.

The initiative involves the preparation of a series of candidate resources (many of which are on OCSTA's website) and the development of a public information campaign that describes the work of trustees and encourages audiences participation in the election process. This initiative/campaign is primarily funded by the province.

The campaign is to include public service announcements, posters, newspaper advertisements and social media promotions. This public



Following a successful first event in 2012, another joint conference between the SCSBA and the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS) is scheduled for this fall. (Photo: Archdiocese of Regina)

focus on understanding the contribution and value of public schools and the individuals elected to lead them is very similar to OCSTA's Faith in Our Future Initiative, but will include the resources and participation of all trustee associations in Ontario.

Lobbying

Achieving greater awareness requires a multi-pronged approach that reaches out to the public and to the government. To ensure that our system's profile is front and centre for our key audiences in the government OCSTA engages regularly in lobbying activities.

These include meetings with politicians and coordinated receptions at Queen's Park that are typically preceded by a series of meetings between Catholic school system delegates and MPPs.

Since joining with our Bishops and our Catholic teachers' union – OECTA – to establish our joint advocacy group – Friends and Advocates for Catholic Education or FACE, we've hosted two Catholic Education Lobby Day's at Queen's Park.

This year's event was held on April 2. Delegation teams consisting of trustees, Bishops and OECTA representatives met with the Premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynne, the Minister of Education, Liz Sandals, the leader of the PC opposition, Tim Hudak and his Education Critic Rob Leone, among other notable MPPs.

But what was really significant this year was that in addition to meeting with MPPs and being recognized in the House during Question period, Catholic school board leaders celebrated Mass with the support and participation of many House members, including the Premier, the Minister of Education, the leader of the provincial PC party

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and other MPPs.

We were honoured to have His Eminence, Cardinal Thomas Collins, as our celebrant for our early morning Mass on April 2.

The key purpose of our lobbying effort was to inform MPPs about the value and contribution of Catholic schools to the vibrancy of their constituencies and to debunk the myth being perpetrated by one-school system advocates that Catholic schools are a costly duplication that if eliminated could save Ontarians \$1 billion.

Delegation teams explained to MPPs that Ontario's funding formula was per-pupil based and that the only way to lower costs would be to have less children or to close hundreds of schools across Ontario, creating massive chaos in every constituency, and disrupting the lives of every single Ontario family.

Not only would the disruption be chaotic but it would be unjustified given that the 1998 amalgamation decision in the education sector cost Ontarians \$1.1 billion dollars and resulted in higher costs throughout the system.

Our April 2nd lobbying effort made an impact at Queen's Park and served to demonstrate the strength of the Catholic Board Lobby—a point that was made in the National Post and other media.

Catholic Education Week

During this year's Catholic Education Week (May 4-9) Catholic school boards across Ontario hosted the first-ever province-wide Mass. Organized by the OSTA-AECO Catholic Board Council and supported by all 29 Catholic school boards, this unique celebration of the Eucharist

has also captured the attention of Pope Francis.

A message from the Holy Father was shared in each board at the province-wide Mass on May 7 during Catholic Education Week. Additionally, Bishops in regions across the province have also prepared video messages to be shared with students during this week and at the province-wide Mass (wherever feasible).

Video messages from Ontario's Bishops and the message from Pope Francis can be viewed here:

<http://www.ocsta.on.ca/catholic-education-week-blessings-activities-across-ontario/>

OCSTA Trustee Certificate Course in Good Governance

Following the successful pilot of OCSTA's Trustee Certificate program, the Board of Directors approved the launch of OCSTA's Trustee Certificate Course in Good Governance. The program is expected to be launched in January, 2015 with the support and participation of the following Catholic universities:

- St. Paul University
- St. Jerome's University (part of the University of Waterloo)
- Assumption University
- St. Michael's University (part of the University of Toronto)
- King's University College (part of the University of Western Ontario)
- St. Augustine's Seminary
- Regis College (part of the University of Toronto)
- University of Sudbury /Laurentian University

The program will utilize the latest online learning technology and incorporate opportunities for in-person instructional/learning sessions.

Web-Based Trustee Modules on Good Governance

OCSTA will also be placing on a secure area of the Association website, the 14 Trustee Modules sponsored by the Ontario Education Services Corporation and modified by OCSTA to reflect Catholic values and perspectives. The modules were delivered at OCSTA events between 2011 and 2013. Going forward trustees will be able to access existing and updated module content online through OCSTA's developing online learning centre.

This new resource for trustees will be available in September of 2014.

seil d'administration ont eu des discussions ouvertes quant aux orientations que devraient adopter l'AFOCSC. Cette nouvelle planification stratégique a été présentée aux membres de l'AFOCSC lors de la dernière assemblée générale annuelle. Nous y retrouvons de nouveaux énoncés de mission de vision ainsi que de nouvelles valeurs organisationnelles. Présentement, le directeur général prépare la planification opérationnelle qui sera présentée aux membres du conseil d'administration lors de sa prochaine réunion en juin.

Préparation de mémoires

Comme l'année précédente, l'année 2013-2014 a été une année très occupée au cours de laquelle l'AFOCSC a rédigé trois mémoires qui ont été soumis au gouvernement de l'Ontario. Les trois mémoires sont les suivants:

- Stratégie ontarienne d'équité et d'éducation inclusive;
- Projet de loi 122;
- Mesures d'économies et de modernisation pour les conseils scolaires.

Il est important pour l'AFOCSC de se prononcer sur les grands enjeux en matière d'éducation. Étant un chef de file en éducation catholique de langue française, les positions adoptées par l'AFOCSC font en sorte à ce que la voix de la communauté éducative catholique en langue française se fait entendre.

L'AFOCSC aimerait remercier toutes celles et ceux qui ont contribué à l'élaboration de ces mémoires. C'est grâce à ce travail de collaboration entre le personnel de l'AFOCSC et ceux de nos conseils membres que nous sommes capables d'assurer notre visibilité sur le plan provincial.

Démarchage politique

Depuis la dernière assemblée générale annuelle, l'AFOCSC a participé à quelques levées de fonds pour des députés et des députées ontariens siégeant à l'assemblée législative. Ces activités permettent à l'AFOCSC de rencontrer des politiciennes et des politiciens pour discuter des positions prises par notre association et tenter d'influer certaines de leurs décisions. Il est important de participer à ces activités de promotion de nos positions car l'AFOCSC est la voix politique de ses membres. Étant une association qui adopte une approche non partisane en politique, l'AFOCSC a rencontré des députés provenant des trois partis politiques qui siègent à Queen's Park.

Comité d'orientation de l'éducation catholique de langue française (COREC)

Depuis de nombreuses années, de concert avec le Conseil ontarien des directions d'éducation catholique de langue française (CODEC) et l'Office provincial de l'éducation de la foi catholique de l'Ontario (OPÉCO), l'AFOCSC est membre de ce comité. Au cours de l'année 2013, cet organisme a continué à travailler sur le Cadre de référence des finissantes et finissants des écoles secondaires catholiques de langue française. Ce cadre, une fois finalisé, servira de référence dans chacune des écoles secondaires catholiques de langue française en Ontario. Le cadre décrit les qualités et les caractéristiques que les élèves devraient développer pendant les quatre années passées dans une école secondaire catholique. Le



Student Trustees Madeline Ellepola (Windsor-Essex) and Michael Pallotto (York CDSB) holding one of the rosaries they received with the message from Pope Francis

AFOCSC

Planification stratégique

Comme la planification stratégique de l'AFOCSC venait à échéance au cours du printemps 2013, le conseil d'administration a décidé de procéder à l'embauche d'une firme d'experts-conseils en planification organisationnelle pour l'appuyer dans sa démarche de renouvellement de ses orientations stratégiques. Suite à un appel d'offre de services, c'est le Centre canadien de leadership en évaluation qui a été retenu pour travailler avec l'AFOCSC sur ces nouvelles orientations.

Depuis presque un an, les membres du con-

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COREC croit, qu'en développant ces qualités et caractéristiques, les finissantes et finissants seront en mesure de mieux affronter les défis qu'elles et ils auront à relever pendant leurs années d'études postsecondaires et sur le marché du travail. Un symposium pour les élèves sera organisé pendant la semaine de l'éducation catholique (5 au 9 mai 2014) et une bande vidéo sera également produite mettant en évidence les éléments du nouveau cadre de référence.

Le Cadre nous permet de présenter de façon plus constante les éléments de l'éducation catholique en Ontario qui sont à la fois essentiels et distincts :

- Une conception de l'existence centrée sur Dieu;
- Une conception de la personne centrée sur le Christ;
- Une conception de la communauté centrée sur l'Église; et
- Une philosophie de l'éducation fondée sur l'humanisme chrétien.

Relations de travail

Un grand défi auquel faisait face l'AFOCSC était sa capacité organisationnelle en relations de travail. Avec un financement assuré de la province, l'AFOCSC a pu embaucher une directrice des relations de travail. Nous sommes donc fiers que Claire Riley, anciennement directrice des ressources humaines au CSCFN, et entrée officiellement en poste le 18 février dernier, se joint à l'équipe de l'AFOCSC. Possédant de grande capacité en négociation, Claire saura bien nous représenter à la table centrale lors de cette prochaine ronde de négociation.

Sensibilisation, Promotion et Recrutement

De concert avec le Regroupement des agents de communication catholiques de l'Ontario (RACCO), organisme qui regroupe les responsables des communications de nos huit conseils membres, l'AFOCSC est à élaborer une campagne de promotion des écoles catholiques de langue française. Cette campagne de promotion mettra en évidence plusieurs raisons pour lesquelles les parents devraient continuer à choisir une éducation catholique pour leur enfant.

De plus, l'AFOCSC travaille avec le RACCO pour élaborer des messages à insérer dans tous les bulletins paroissiaux concernant la question des taxes foncières. Avec les règlements qui existent présentement, plusieurs contribuables ne reconnaissent pas qu'ils peuvent appuyer le système d'éducation catholique de langue française.

De plus, l'AFOCSC aura à faire des revendications auprès du ministère de finances pour assurer que les francophones catholiques ne soient pas pénalisés lorsque, par exemple, une famille déménage car, statutairement, ces contribuables deviennent automatiquement des contribuables anglophones publics.

16e AGA de l'AFOCSC- Ottawa du 11 au 13 avril 2014

La direction de l'AFOCSC a présenté à ses membres la planification stratégique 2014-2019. L'AFOCSC s'est dotée d'une nouvelle mission, vision et valeurs organisationnelles. La nouvelle planification stratégique se repose sur quatre axes d'intervention, soit la fidélisation, la vitalité de la francophonie, la catholicité et la capacité organisationnelle.

De plus, les membres ont adopté des modifica-

tions aux Statuts et Règlements de l'AFOCSC. Avec l'adoption du projet de loi 122, Loi de 2013 sur la négociation collective dans les conseils scolaires, des modifications s'imposaient afin d'assurer que l'Association soit en mesure de représenter ses conseils membres à une table centrale éventuelle de négociation. L'Association devra voir à une révision complète de son document constitutif pour présentation à la 17e assemblée générale annuelle de l'AFOCSC en 2015.

Les membres de l'AFOCSC ont eu l'occasion d'assister à des ateliers en lien avec leur rôle de conseillères et de conseillers scolaires. En matinée, Me Ronald Caza, en s'inspirant du roman de St Exupéry le Petit Prince, a réussi à faire des liens importants entre le roman et la francophonie ontarienne. Tout comme la rose, la langue française est vulnérable aux forces extérieures, il faut donc la nourrir et en prendre soin si nous voulons qu'elle s'épanouisse et garde toute sa vitalité.

De plus, les membres ont assisté à trois ateliers : Foi chrétienne et les communications dans les réseaux sociaux avec le professeur Guy Marchessault de l'Université St-Paul, Croire dans un monde sécularisé avec le père Pierre-Olivier Tremblay et Droits constitutionnels en matière d'éducation avec Maître Mark Power.

Lors du banquet du samedi soir l'AFOCSC a remis à madame Diane Doré sa plus haute décoration, le Prix d'excellence en éducation catholique de langue française. Ce prix est remis annuellement à une conseillère ou un conseiller scolaire qui a contribué de façon exceptionnelle à l'éducation catholique en langue française. Mme Doré a été et demeure active dans sa communauté étant impliquée dans plusieurs domaines; le mouvement des Guides; Action Vanier; le centre pour aînés francophones, trésorière de la Fondation de l'hôpital Montfort et d'autres.

Enfin les membres ont élu un nouveau président, Jean Lemay et la présidente sortante Mélinda Chartrand a été élue à la vice-présidence.

Événements à signaler

- 5 au 7 juin 2014: Congrès annuel de l'ACCEC à Kingston
- 25 au 27 septembre 2014: Congrès annuel de l'ACELF à Halifax
- 16 au 18 octobre 2014: Congrès annuel de la FNCSF à Niagara Falls

AFOCSC

Strategic Planning

As our last strategic plan came to an end in the spring of 2013, the AFOCSC Board, after calling for tenders, hired a consulting firm, Le CLÉ, to help in renewing the strategic plan for 2014-2019. A number of sessions with the consultant enabled the Board to set the orientation of the Association for the next five years. Each of the sessions was followed with an opportunity to validate the document in progress. This new strategic plan which includes new Mission and Vision statements as well as organizational values was presented for adoption at the AGM in Ottawa this past April 13th. The Executive Director will present the operational component to AFOCSC Board members at its meeting this June.

Preparation and submission of briefs

As in the previous year, AFOCSC was busy in 2013-14 preparing briefs for submission to the government of Ontario:

- Ontario strategy on equity and inclusiveness
- Bill 122
- School board efficiencies and modernization

It is important for our association, on behalf of our member boards and the students and parents we serve, to comment on and react to important issues which would impact French Catholic education in our communities. These issues are discussed with provincial MPPs to gain their support.

AFOCSC extends its gratitude to the personnel of member boards as it recognizes their contribution in the preparation of these briefs. As a small organization, AFOCSC would not be able to accomplish so much and be visible on the provincial stage without their assistance and collaboration.

Political involvement – Lobbying

Since our last AGM, AFOCSC has participated at different functions of the provincial political parties represented in the legislature. These activities have permitted meeting with the provincial politicians in order to explain our positions on key issues and gain their support. This is part of our mandate expected by our member boards to represent them and to serve their interests.

COREC (Orientation committee for Catholic French language education)

AFOCSC is a member of this committee. During 2013, the committee continued to develop the frame of reference for the student graduating from a Catholic French language high school. This frame of reference specifies the qualities and characteristics that each student is expected to exhibit after being educated in catholic schools. These qualities should enable each student to better confront the challenges of life wherever and whatever they may be. A symposium for students will be offered during the Catholic Education Week 2014 and a video has been prepared to present the elements of the frame of reference which includes:

- A conception of existence centred on God;
- A conception of the person centred on Christ;
- A conception of the community centred on the Church; and
- A philosophy of education based on Christian humanism.

Labour Relations

A major challenge facing a small organization such as AFOCSC was its capacity to deal with the upcoming negotiations what with its many union groups. With funding guaranteed by the province AFOCSC was able to hire a labour relations director. Claire Riley former Human resources director for Conseil catholique Franco-Nord joined us last February 18th. Experienced and knowledgeable, Claire will represent the eight member boards at the provincial tables.

Awareness, promotion and recruitment

In collaboration with the RACCO (communications staff of our eight member boards) AFOCSC has put together a promotional campaign for French catholic schools. The materials are aimed at parents explaining why they should continue choosing a catholic school for their child's education.

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In addition, messages have been developed to be included in parish bulletins concerning indicating support for the French catholic school system on voter registration cards. Many do not realize that they can support our system.

AFOCSC is a member of the Orientation committee of the Coalition on mental health. The coalition is made up of professionals from the health, education, and youth sectors as well as various groups that work with youths at risk. The Summit on mental health was held in Toronto at the beginning of April 2014.

AFOCSC's 16th AGM – Ottawa April 11th to the 13th 2014

Benoît Mercier the Executive director presented the strategic plan 2014-2019 to the members. The new plan incorporates revised Mission and Vision statements as well as organizational values. The plan has as its foundation four priorities or axes of intervention: catholicity, development of loyalty, vitality of the francophone community, and organizational capacity.

The members also adopted changes to its statutes and regulations. With the adoption of Bill 122 dealing with collective bargaining, modifications were required in order for the Association to be able to represent its members at the provincial tables and to put in place a consultation process to obtain mandates. AFOCSC intends to do a complete review of its statutes and regulations and make the appropriate changes for presentation at its 2015 AGM.

Members were treated to presentations dealing with topics of interest: Ronald Caza constitutional expert on the importance of nourishing a vulnerable community to assure its viability and vitality; Christian faith and communications in the social media by professor Guy Marchessault of St. Paul University; Believing in a secularized world by Father Pierre-Olivier Tremblay and Constitutional rights in education by lawyer Mark Power.

The highlight of Saturday's banquet was the awarding of the prize for excellence in French catholic education to Diane Doré a trustee with the Conseil catholique Centre-Est (Ottawa) Mme Doré was and still is very active in her community, involved with the Guides movement, Action Vanier, the centre for senior francophones, treasurer of the Montfort hospital Foundation among others.

The members elected a new President Jean Lemay and the outgoing president Melinda Chartrand was elected Vice-president.

Coming events

- June 5 to 7, 2014: CCSTA Annual General Meeting - Kingston
- September 25 to 27, 2014: ACELF - Annual meeting - Halifax
- October 16 to 18, 2014: FNCSF Annual General Meeting - Niagara Falls

Atlantic Region

In April, RCISA, AR was delighted with the decision of Our Lady of Grace Catholic School to become a member of the association. Situated in Nasonworth, NB (just south of Fredericton), this school has been in operation for some years and currently has students from primary to high school. A small school - there were 33 full-time students enrolled for the 2013-14 school year - Our Lady of Grace represents the efforts of small groups of parents to get a Catholic school established in their community.

The association has also been 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.

Student Enrolment

Boards have been active in ensuring a healthy student enrolment for the 2014-2015 school year. With enrolment playing such a key factor in whether the school can remain financially viable, the annual strategy centres on getting out information to prospective parents as well as shoring up the commitment of the parents of current students. Even a drop of a few students results in, as it were, crisis management of many budget factors, teacher employment not least among them. That said, the projected 2014-15 enrolment is positive. While there has been over the years some fluctuation in student population in particular schools, overall each year has seen a small increase in the total number of students who attend RCISA, AR schools. Schools, then, are busy with such events as Bursary Fundraiser Dinner - Sacred Heart of Halifax - and parent information sessions for pre-school and kindergarten - Immaculate Heart of Mary Schools in Corner Brook - all designed to ensure the continued success and growth of the school.

World Catholic Education Day

World Catholic Education Day, which happens May 29 this year, provides schools the opportunity to highlight the world-wide web of Catholic schools. The poster and suggestions provided through the CCSTA website are most helpful.

Events

This spring sees the students of our schools engaged in the usual community oriented programs - music and drama festivals, speak-offs, play-off competitions in sports, fund-raiser activities, as well as the recognition of those who have contributed much to their community, two such being the Spiritus Award by Divine Mercy Catholic School, and the Ignatian Spirit Award by St. Bonaventure's College.

The 2015 CCSTA AGM Set for Newfoundland!

The St. Bonaventure's College Board of Directors is delighted to be acting as host for the CCSTA 2015 convention to be held in St. John's from June 11- 13, 2015. The venue (the Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland), the speakers (among them, Bishop Brian Dunn, Fr. Matt Malone S. J., and Michel Genest), the convention tours, the Friday seafood evening, the liturgy at St. John the Baptist Basilica, and much, much more will all enliven the convention theme:

Launch forth into the deep/ Avancez au large et jetez vos filets.



Chaplain's Corner

Catholic School Trustees, True Witnesses!

The work of the school trustees is far greater than simply establishing and coordinating a responsible governance of the Catholic schools that are entrusted to them. It goes without saying that, in a collegial way albeit, the ultimate responsibility of delivering the school boards programs and services and of keeping a sound administration rests on their shoulders. The electors who voted for them entrusted these charges upon them. The provincial governments recognize this mission and regulate it in their respective provincial Education Act.

Yet, the mandate of the trustees far exceeds the functions assigned to them by the provinces. There is an added and crucial dimension for Catholic school trustees, that of witnessing to their faith in Jesus Christ. The Catholic Church confides this mission to them; it does so via the electors who manifested their trust in them at the voting stations.

According to Pope Francis, "one cannot be a Christian without being a witness", for Christianity is not only a "religion of ideas, of pure theology, of commandments": the Church is "a people who follow Jesus Christ and witnesses to him". (Zenit, May 6, 2014) This expectation is even greater for those to whom a responsibility has been confided and for those who are leaders in the Catholic school systems across Canada.

There are numerous Canadian Catholic school trustees who are true witnesses to Jesus Christ and who are not afraid to publically profess their faith. For them, we are thankful and may God bless their work!



Fr. Rémi Lessard
CCSTA Chaplain/Aumônier

Le conseiller, la conseillère scolaire, de véritables témoins!

Le travail du conseiller, de la conseillère scolaire est beaucoup plus que d'assurer une saine gouvernance des écoles catholiques qui lui sont confié. Il va sans dire que repose sur ses épaules, et cela d'une manière collégiale, l'ultime responsabilité du conseil scolaire autant dans la livraison de ses programmes, de ses services, que de son administration. Cette charge lui est confiée par les électeurs et les électrices qui lui ont accordé leur confiance. Les gouvernements provinciaux reconnaissent cette mission et il la règlemente dans leur loi respective sur l'éducation.

Mais le mandat du conseiller, de la conseillère dépasse cette fonction que lui accorde les provinces. Il revêt une dimension supplémentaire pour les conseillers et conseillères scolaires des écoles catholiques du Canada, celle de témoigner de la foi en Jésus le Christ. Cette mission lui est confiée par l'Église catholique à la demande des baptisés catholiques qui se sont rendus aux urnes pour leur accorder leur confiance.

Pour le pape François, « on ne peut pas comprendre un chrétien qui ne soit pas témoin », car le christianisme n'est pas une « religion d'idées, de pure théologie, de commandements » : l'Église est « un peuple qui suit Jésus Christ et lui rend témoignage ». (Zenit, 6 mai 2014) Cette attente est encore plus élevée, affirmeront certains, envers ceux et celles à qui on a confié une responsabilité et qui assurent un leadership dans le monde scolaire catholique. Ils sont nombreux au Canada les conseillers et conseillères scolaires catholiques qui sont de véritables témoins de Jésus Christ et qui ne craignent pas d'affirmer leur foi publiquement. Nous leur sommes reconnaissants et que le Seigneur bénissent leur travail!

Please mark these dates on
your planning calendar:

• June 11-13, 2015
CCSTA AGM/Convention
St. John's, Newfoundland

• June 2-4, 2016
CCSTA AGM/Convention
Yellowknife, NWT

• Date TBD, 2017
CCSTA AGM/Convention
Niagara Falls, Ontario



Save your Toonies!

The CCSTA Toonies for Tuition fundraising efforts continue as we work to help families across Canada gain access to Catholic education opportunities.

To learn more,
please visit our website at
tooniesfortuition.ca