

# Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association

## Association canadienne des commissaires d'écoles catholiques



December/décembre 2014

CCSTA NEWSLETTER/COMMUNIQUÉ DE L'ACCEC

www.ccsta.ca

### Newfoundland to Showcase Close Connection to CCSTA at 2015 AGM



Newfoundland and the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association (CCSTA) have a long-established history. The connection first began in 1960 when the national association was established, and that same connection continues into day. CCSTA provided unflinching support for Catholic education when Newfoundland's Parliament in 1998 removed the constitutional right that NL Catholics, among others, had to have their own schools. From the establishment of the Higgins Award in 1965 in honor of St. John's native Justice James J. Higgins to the benefits many students have received from the annual Toonies for Tuition bursaries, CCSTA has an honored place in the minds and hearts of Catholic board members in the province ably exemplified in the five very successful conventions held previously in the province. Like those earlier events, the 2015 Convention and AGM, promises to be an exciting and rewarding experience for delegates and their spouses/companions.

The Annual General Meeting's theme reflects the heart of the province and to the challenges facing Catholic education throughout the country. With a period of reflection led by Anne Walsh, the theme was identified: Launch forth into the deep/Avancez au large et jetez vos filets. The inspiration came from those moments in the Gospel (Luke 5:1-11; John 21: 4-8) when Jesus invites Peter and his fellow fishers to cast their nets in trust despite all the indications that little or nothing was to be had.

From there Fr. Cecil Critch, former principal of St. Bonaventure's, was asked to develop a logo that would illustrate the theme. For Fr. Cecil, the moment he wanted to capture was the dawn of a new day and so the logo is full of morning colors as the sun rises with Jesus in the boat with His fishers, the trustees of today and tomorrow where once Peter and Andrew and the others once sat, perhaps a little questioning but willing to follow their Lord's invitation to "launch forth/avancez..." The promise remains - the net will fill, will bulge.

As the oldest city in North America, St. John's has plenty to offer the visitor - a harbour that has been a hive of activity for over 500 years, historic buildings like the Basilica of St. John the Baptist that miraculously survived various devastating fires that swept the city, the fire of 1892 in particular, buildings such as the Anglican Cathedral and the Court House that were built on the rubble of those fires, sites associated with the military history of the province such as the tower on Signal Hill where Marconi received the first trans-Atlantic wireless signal from England, and The Rooms that houses historical and contemporary artifacts while providing a marvellous view of the harbour.

"With luck, the visiting trustee will look out toward the harbour and see an iceberg all the way from Greenland, a sight that never fails to fill one with awe and wonder," explains organizing committee member, Bonaventure Fagan. "For those on the convention tour, the visit to Cupids promises to be a most exciting and learning experience." The identification and excavation of the oldest English settlement in Canada established by John Guy in 1610 has largely occurred in the last decade, so it will be 'new' even for those who were at the 2006 AGM.

One special highlight will be the seafood meal and entertainment to be held on Friday evening at the Knights of Columbus Terra Nova Council

rooms. Lobster will be but one item on the menu. (An alternative menu will be available for those who request a non-seafood meal.) Song and dance will entertain delegates before and after they eat. Of course, the convention will also provide some serious food for thought and reflection. Keynote speakers Matt Malone S. J. and Bishop Brian Dunn will speak to the convention theme by sharing their reflections on where the New Evangelization has moved in recent years, particularly under the leadership, guidance, and example of Pope Francis I. In the breakout sessions, several speakers will provide reflections on topics that will interest delegates. Michel Genest will provide a most informative look at the presence of the French in the history of the province, a role that continues to be alive and well in our own time. Michael Bautista will give a reflection on the loss of Catholic schools in the late 1990s and how certain parents determined that they would not let politics dictate an end to the kind of education they wanted for their children, thereby opening St. Bonaventure's College as a Catholic independent school. Other sessions will focus on a world-view of ecology and how that can be witnessed in practical terms by school initiatives; another on strategies to reach contemporary youth who may be experiencing the enticement of the street and thus miss out on the positives which education has to offer.



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## President's Message

As I begin my first year as President of this great organization, I want to express my gratitude to all trustees across this country for their continued dedication and service to our Catholic students that we chose to serve.

Our AGM and conference held in Kingston earlier this year was a tremendous success and I wish to thank all those involved for working so hard to share their wonderful community and hospitality with us.

Thank you to Ted Paszek for his excellent service as our President and his invaluable leadership. I look forward to Ted's guidance and support as he continues to serve as our Past President. Congratulations to Marino Gazzola on his election to the Vice President position and to all new and returning members to our board of directors.

The support and confidence that you have given to CCSTA allows us to represent you all with great pleasure and understanding that we are all here together to grow, protect and defend the gift we know as Catholic Education. It is so important that we increase our Advocacy to our provincial- and federal-elected officials. We must speak of our successes and good practices, and there is no better way to do this than speaking with them and thanking them for their continued support. We all know who our champions are and we need to acknowledge and continue to keep them informed about who we are and what we represent.

As I reflect on my journey as a trustee I think back to the days of being involved with our School Community Council, as I hoped that being involved would make a difference for our local school. I think back now and realize that this was just the beginning of a tremendous journey of service, but most of all my faith! When I was first approached to run for our local board, I thought, these people must be crazy! Who me? Why?

Then it became very clear I was being called to this service, as this wasn't just a position but an opportunity to live my faith and model it. I believe being a trustee is a vocation and we are an important part of our Faith community. We are asked to guide and ensure the Catholicity of our schools and to help make sure we never lose this gift!

We are in an exciting time as Catholics as Pope Francis speaks of the New Evangelization and we must be an integral part of this as trustees. We must model and set the course for our administrators, teachers, students, staff and parents. Our schools must be as they are now inclusive and welcoming!

In October, we met as a board of directors in Ottawa to discuss the business of our association and we were hoping to host a reception for the Members of Parliament and the Senate. This was to continue our Advocacy objectives to inform and build relationships with these political leaders in support of Catholic Education. The reception had to be cancelled as the Members of Parliament were called back to the house. We tried to schedule separate meetings while we were there; however, due to the tragedy that occurred in Ottawa while we were there, these naturally were also cancelled. We keep in our prayers Corporal Nathan Cirillo and his family as well as all those who protect us!

I have had the pleasure of traveling not very far and visiting my colleagues in Saskatchewan and Alberta at their respective fall Conventions. Congratulations to George Bolduc, the President of SCSBA, and to Tony Sykora President of ACSTA on their successful elections to their positions. I look forward to working with the both of them in promoting and protecting Catholic Education in this country.

With all of our trustees, I look forward to your guidance and support in assisting me and our board with making sure we always have Catholic Education at the forefront for students.

Thank you to Jean Montminy and John Stunt for the wonderful job you do in our office and for keeping us on task.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Stunt for his years of service to our organization as the Executive Director. John has announced that he will retire at the end of this term. We will commence a search for a new Executive Director in the next few months. So again, John, thank you for your dedication and service to Catholic Education!

May God Bless all of you as begin to celebrate the Christmas season.

Mike St. Amand  
President, CCSTA

## Message de la présidente

Au moment d'amorcer ma première année en tant que président de cette grande organisation, je tiens à exprimer ma reconnaissance à tous les conseillers scolaires au pays pour leur engagement et leur service auprès des élèves catholiques que nous avons choisi de servir.

Notre congrès/AGA qui a eu lieu à Kingston plus tôt cette année fut un succès retentissant, et je remercie tous ceux qui se sont efforcés de nous faire partager leur belle communauté et leur hospitalité.

Merci aussi à M. Ted Paszek pour son travail de président et son leadership inestimable. Je pourrai compter sur son appui et ses conseils puisqu'il occupera le rôle de président sortant. Félicitations à M. Marino Gazzola pour son élection au poste de vice-président, ainsi qu'à tous les autres membres de notre conseil d'administration qui resteront en poste.

La confiance et l'appui que vous avez manifestés à l'ACCEC nous permet de vous représenter dans la certitude que nous sommes tous là pour faire grandir et protéger l'éducation catholique, et défendre ce privilège qu'elle représente. Il est très important que nous augmentions nos efforts pour sensibiliser nos politiciens fédéraux et provinciaux. Nous devons leur présenter nos réussites et nos bonnes pratiques, et il n'existe pas de meilleure façon de le faire qu'en leur parlant et en les remerciant de leur

appui. Nous savons tous qui sont nos principaux alliés, et il faut continuer de les reconnaître, de les garder au courant de ce que nous représentons et de qui nous sommes.

En faisant le point sur mon parcours en tant que conseiller scolaire, je me souviens de mon implication dans le comité d'école et de combien je souhaitais que cette implication ait un impact sur notre communauté. Je réalise maintenant que c'était là le début d'une formidable aventure de service aux autres et surtout de ma propre foi! Lorsqu'on m'a d'abord pressenti comme candidat à l'élection scolaire locale, j'ai cru que ces gens devaient être un peu dérangés. Qui, moi? Pourquoi?

Puis il est devenu clair que je recevais un appel à servir, et qu'il ne s'agissait pas d'un simple poste de responsabilité, mais d'une occasion de vivre ma foi et de la mettre en exemple. Je crois que d'être conseiller scolaire est une vocation et que nous sommes une composante importante de notre communauté de foi. Nous devons mener et nous assurer de la catholicité de nos écoles tout en nous efforçant de ne jamais en perdre le privilège.

Nous vivons une époque excitante en tant que catholiques et conseillers scolaires, devant le discours du pape François sur la nouvelle évangélisation. Nous devons guider nos administrateurs scolaires, nos enseignants, les élèves et les parents. Nos écoles doivent continuer d'être inclusives et accueillantes!

En octobre, notre conseil d'administration s'est réuni à Ottawa pour discuter des affaires de l'association, et nous souhaitions accueillir les députés et les sénateurs à une réception. Nous espérions par-là poursuivre notre objectif d'informer et de cultiver nos appuis envers l'éducation catholique auprès de nos leaders politiques. La réception a dû être annulée parce que les politiciens ont été rappelés en chambre. Nous avons tenté d'obtenir des entretiens privés, mais ces derniers ont aussi été annulés à cause de la tragédie qui s'était déroulée à Ottawa au même moment. Nous offrons nos prières au caporal Nathan Cirillo et à sa famille, ainsi qu'à tous ceux et celles qui nous défendent.

J'ai eu le plaisir de visiter mes collègues en Saskatchewan et en Alberta, lors de leurs congrès d'automne respectifs. Félicitations à M. George Bolduc, président de la SCSBA, et à M. Tony Sykora, président de l'ACSTA, qui ont tous deux été élus à leur poste. J'ai bien hâte de travailler avec eux à la promotion et à la protection de l'éducation catholique au pays.

Le conseil d'administration et moi comptons sur votre appui et vos conseils pour nous assurer de conserver l'éducation catholique au premier plan pour nos élèves. Je remercie Mme Jean Montminy et M. John Stunt pour leur appui professionnel et pour leur travail exceptionnel à notre bureau central.

Je tiens aussi à remercier M. John Stunt pour ses années de service à notre organisation en tant que directeur général. John a annoncé qu'il prendrait sa retraite à la fin de ce mandat. Nous amorcerons les démarches pour lui trouver un successeur dans les prochains mois. Encore une fois, John Stunt, merci pour ton dévouement et ton travail au service de l'éducation catholique.

Que Dieu vous accompagne tous en ce début de la saison de Noël.

Mike St. Amand  
President, ACCEC

# Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador célèbrera son association à l'ACCEC lors du congrès/AGA de 2015

Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador et l'Association canadienne des commissaires d'écoles catholiques sont associés depuis longtemps. La relation a commencé en 1960 au moment où l'association nationale a été créée, et elle dure encore à ce jour. L'ACCEC a fourni un appui indéfectible à l'éducation catholique lorsqu'en 1998, le parlement de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador a retiré aux catholiques entre autres droits, celui à leurs propres écoles. Depuis l'établissement du prix Higgins en 1965, en l'honneur du juge James J. Higgins, natif de St. John's, jusqu'aux avantages qu'ont obtenus plusieurs élèves grâce aux bourses annuelles Toonies for Tuition, l'ACCEC occupe un espace spécial dans les cœurs et les pensées des membres du conseil catholique de la province, comme l'ont démontré les cinq congrès qui y ont pris place. Tout comme pour les événements antérieurs, le congrès/AGA de 2015 promet d'être une expérience enrichissante et excitante pour tous.

Le thème choisi reflète l'essence de la province et s'adresse aux défis auxquels fait face l'éducation catholique partout au pays. Après une période de réflexion sous la direction de Mme Anne Walsh, le thème a été dévoilé : Launch forth into the deep/Avancez au large et jetez vos filets. L'inspiration en est venue à partir de ces passages de l'Évangile (Luc 5:1-11; Jean 21: 4-8), lorsque Jésus invite Pierre et ses camarades pêcheurs à lancer leurs filets avec confiance malgré les signes apparents montrant que la pêche serait infructueuse.

De là, le père Cecil Critch, ancien directeur de l'école St. Bonaventure, a eu la tâche de créer un logo pour illustrer le thème choisi. Le moment qu'il a voulu capturer est celui du soleil levant, afin que l'illustration soit pleine des couleurs de l'aurore, avec dans le bateau Jésus et ses Pêcheurs, les conseillers scolaires d'aujourd'hui et de demain, là où se sont tenus autrefois Pierre, André et les autres, avec un certain doute, mais prêts à accepter l'exhortation de leur Seigneur « d'avancer au large et de jeter leurs filets. » La promesse demeure : le filet se comblera.

En tant que ville la plus ancienne de l'Amérique du Nord, St. John's possède plusieurs attraits pour les visiteurs : un port très achalandé depuis 500 ans, des édifices historiques comme la Basilique de Saint Jean Baptiste qui a miraculeusement survécu aux différents incendies ayant ravagé la ville, en particulier celui de 1892, la cathédrale anglicane et le palais de justice érigés sur les ruines de ces incendies, des sites associés à l'histoire militaire de la province, tels la tour de Signal Hill où Marconi a capté le premier signal

radio transatlantique provenant de l'Angleterre, et The Rooms, un espace public qui abrite des artefacts historiques et contemporains avec une vue imprenable sur le port.

« Avec un peu de chance, les visiteurs pourront apercevoir à l'entrée du port un iceberg arrivé tout droit du Groenland, un spectacle grandiose qui ne manque jamais de ravir ceux qui en sont témoins, » explique M. Bonaventure Fagan, membre du comité organisateur. « Pour ceux qui participeront aux visites guidées, l'excursion à Cupids promet de fournir une expérience instructive et enrichissante. » L'excavation et l'identification des ruines sur la plus ancienne colonie britannique au Canada, établie par John Guy en 1610, se sont déroulées en grande partie depuis les dix dernières années, donc ce sera quand même « nouveau » pour ceux qui étaient présents à l'AGA de 2006.

Un fait saillant sera le souper/spectacle qui aura lieu le vendredi soir dans les salles Knights of Columbus Terra Nova Council. Homard et autres fruits de mer seront au menu. Il y aura un menu alternatif pour ceux qui en feront la demande. Un spectacle de chant et de danse divertira les participants avant et après le repas.

Naturellement, le congrès fournira aussi de nombreuses occasions de réfléchir et de méditer. Les conférenciers invités, M. Matt Malone S.J. et Mgr l'évêque Brian Dunn élaboreront le thème du congrès en partageant leurs réflexions sur les orientations de la nouvelle évangélisation au cours des dernières années, sous le leadership, la direction et l'exemple de notre pape François. Dans les ateliers, plusieurs conférenciers proposeront des sujets de réflexion d'intérêt pour les participants. M. Michel Genest proposera un regard informatif sur le fait français dans l'histoire de la province, une présence toujours bien vivante encore de nos jours. M. Michael Bautista fera un retour sur la disparition de l'enseignement catholique à la fin des années 90, et comment certains parents ont refusé de se laisser imposer la perte du genre d'éducation qu'ils voulaient pour leurs enfants en créant St. Bonaventure's College en tant qu'école catholique indépendante. D'autres sessions proposeront une vision mondiale de l'écologie et présenteront des façons de la mettre en pratique dans des activités scolaires; on pourra également apprendre des stratégies pour rejoindre ces jeunes qui peuvent être attirés par la vie sur la rue et par là se priver des aspects positifs que l'éducation pourrait leur apporter.



CANADIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION  
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES COMMISSAIRES  
D'ÉCOLES CATHOLIQUES

invites applications for the position of

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL**

Effective Date: July 2015

CCSTA is the national voice for Catholic school trustees from across Canada, with the head office located in Ottawa, Ontario. The Executive Director, reporting to the President, serves in a .5 position, with the office staff consisting of the Executive Director and Executive Assistant.

CCSTA is seeking an authentic Catholic leader with a wide range of administrative experience in Catholic education. The successful applicant will be a person of deep faith with a strong commitment to the mission and purpose of Catholic education.

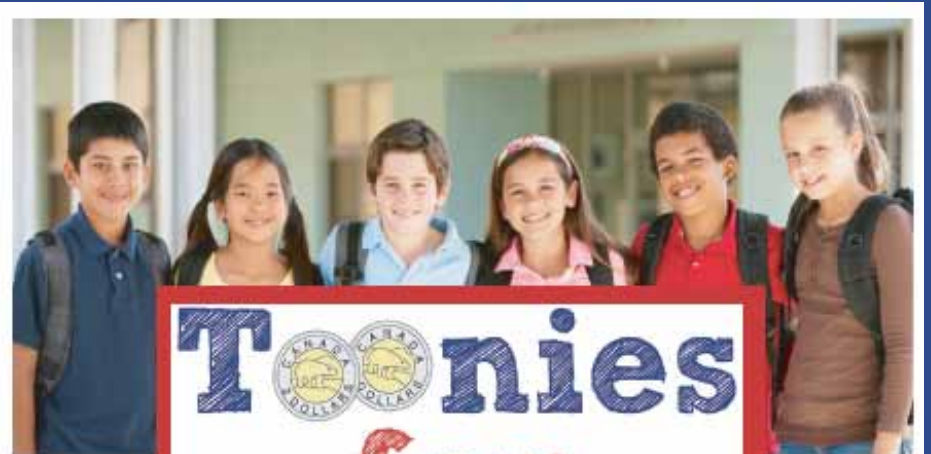
Exemplary written and oral communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills are essential to the position. A solid understanding of the operations of school boards, trustees' and political organizations is necessary. Proficiency in English and French is an asset.

Applications should include the following:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Three professional references
- One current pastoral reference
- A one-page Philosophy of Catholic Education statement

Applications marked "Personal and Confidential" will be accepted until no later than Wednesday, December 17, 2014, and can be submitted by email or mail to:

Mike St. Amand, President  
CCSTA/ACCEC, 570 West Hunt Club Road, Ottawa, ON K2G 3R4  
Email: [cستا@ocsb.ca](mailto:cستا@ocsb.ca)



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for  
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CCSTA Endowment Fund

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

To see the French version of this job posting, please visit [ccsta.ca](http://ccsta.ca).  
Pour la version française de cette offre d'emploi, veuillez consulter le site: [ccsta.ca](http://ccsta.ca)



## 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.

## 2014-2015 Executive / Exécutif

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

## From the Office Desk...

The fall activities kicked off with my participation in the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' Forum for Movements and Associations. Representatives from 36 national Catholic associations and movements gathered in the retreat facilities of St. Anne-de-Beaupré in Quebec, directly across from the famous basilica to the mother of Mary and one of the oldest pilgrimage sites in North America.



Every few years the Canadian bishops call the groups together to ask them what they are doing for the church, and to find out how the bishops can best support them. The papal nuncio and five bishops spent the weekend with the group.

The focus this year was on the teaching of Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* for the Universal Church. It was a stimulating few days, and a good opportunity to network with other Catholic groups.

One of the blessings of this job is to visit the sites of our upcoming AGM/Conventions. I had the pleasure of visiting Yellowknife this fall to view the venue for our 2016 AGM/Convention. The legendary northern hospitality was most evident, and I believe our delegates will enjoy a unique experience in Canada's north.

Other activities included participation in the October Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association AGM/Convention

in Saskatoon, which was a unique joint venture with the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan. In November, I attended the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association AGM/Convention in Edmonton.

Both conventions had excellent programs and professional development for trustees, while our hosts offered exceptional warmth and hospitality to a visitor from the east. Catholic education is indeed alive and well across Canada!

With my retirement at the end of next June, the board has initiated a process for the recruitment and appointment of your next executive director. There is an active search underway and the board hopes to have an announcement in February 2015.

Plans are well underway for CCSTA's AGM/Convention in St. John's, Newfoundland/Labrador on June 11-13, 2015. Registration will be open in the New Year, so please check the CCSTA website ([www.ccsta.ca](http://www.ccsta.ca)) regularly for details... based on past experience this will be a popular venue, so register early.

Wishing you and your loved-ones a good Advent and a Holy and Blessed Christmas.

Yours in Catholic Education,

John Stunt  
Executive Director, CCSTA

## Nouvelles du bureau...

L'horaire d'automne a débuté avec ma participation au Forum national 2014 de la Conférence des évêques catholiques du Canada avec les mouvements et les associations catholiques. Des représentants de 36 associations et mouvements catholiques nationaux se sont réunis dans les locaux de retraite de Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, au Québec, juste en face de la célèbre basilique consacrée à Marie, l'un des lieux de pèlerinage les plus anciens de l'Amérique du Nord.

À quelques années d'intervalle, les évêques canadiens rassemblent les différents groupes pour leur demander un bilan de leurs activités et pour savoir comment ils pourraient les appuyer. Le nonce papal et cinq évêques étaient présents pour tout le weekend avec le groupe.

Cette année, l'accent a été mis sur les enseignements du pape François dans son Exhortation apostolique *Evangelii Gaudium* sur l'annonce de l'évangile dans le monde d'aujourd'hui. Ce fut une expérience vivifiante et une bonne occasion de recréer les liens avec les autres groupes catholiques.

L'un des plaisirs de ce poste est de pouvoir visiter les sites de nos congrès/AGA à venir. J'ai eu le plaisir de me rendre à Yellowknife cet automne et visiter le site de notre congrès/AGA de 2016. J'y ai constaté la légendaire hospitalité du nord et je crois que les participants vivront une expérience unique lors de cet événement.

J'ai aussi participé en octobre au congrès/AGA de la Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association, organisé conjointe-

ment avec la Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (l'Association catholique de santé de la Saskatchewan). En novembre, j'ai assisté au congrès/AGA de l'Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association à Edmonton.

Ces deux congrès proposaient d'excellents programmes pour l'apprentissage professionnel des conseillers scolaires, jumelés à une chaleur et une hospitalité exceptionnelles à mon égard. En effet, l'éducation catholique est bien vivante partout au Canada!

Avec le moment de ma retraite qui approche à la fin juin, le conseil d'administration a lancé le processus de recrutement pour votre prochain directeur général. L'issue de cette entreprise vous sera probablement révélée en février 2015.

Les préparatifs pour le congrès/AGA de l'ACCEC à Saint-Jean de Terre-Neuve, du 11 au 13 juin 2015, battent leur train. L'inscription sera ouverte au début de la nouvelle année, alors consultez régulièrement le site de l'ACCEC – [www.ccsta.ca](http://www.ccsta.ca) – pour tous les détails. Inscrivez-vous tôt, car les places seront convoitées.

Je vous souhaite, à vous et à vos êtres chers, une bonne saison de l'Avent et un joyeux et saint Noël.

Vôtre dans l'éducation catholique,

John Stunt  
Directeur général, ACCEC

# Joint conference shines light on good news in Catholic education and healthcare

The Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association and the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan recently teamed up to host a unique joint conference which delved into fostering relationships while providing faith-based education and healthcare.

The conference, entitled *On Holy Ground: Where Catholic Health and Education Serve*, was held from Oct. 24 to 26 in Saskatoon, Sask.

It was the second such conference for both groups, an exceptional event which sees the two organizations coming together for education, sharing ideas, and also serving as the annual general meeting for the two organizations.

Ken Loehndorf, executive director of SCSBA, said the conference unifies the groups.

“It brings together people in our province who provide Catholic education and healthcare; we support each other,” he said. “Everyone there has the opportunity to grow in their faith, while learning, understanding the challenges, and recognizing common ground.”

Keynote speakers included Fr. Tony Richard and Dr. Matthew Sleeth. Fr. Richard spoke on exploring God’s unconditional love and searching for the child Jesus, while Sleeth spoke about a prescription for a healthier, happier life by keeping the Sabbath holy.

Both the education and healthcare sides presented plenary sessions to enable the organizations to get to know each other. The education focus included a panel made up of voices from students, teachers, trustees, and administrators. Panel members shared personal experiences as well as “good news stories” to highlight the distinctiveness of Catholic education and how it has impacted their

lives.

Loehndorf said the panel resonated for many attendees because it was made up of a variety of people from various backgrounds sharing their first-hand accounts of the positive happenings occurring in Catholic education in the province. Those people included Canadian Catholic School Trustees’ Association president, Mike St. Amand, as well as a trustee who talked about Catholic education’s impact on him as an individual and a father. In addition, a veteran teacher from Regina also spoke, as did a student from a Saskatchewan Catholic high school, Bishop Albert Thévenot, and a director of education.

“The panel did a wonderful job of helping people understand that Catholic education is more than a crucifix on the wall and a prayer every now and then,” Loehndorf said. “Our faith is permeated in everything we do and that’s one of the hallmarks of Catholic education.”

John Stunt, executive director of CCSTA, attended the conference last month and said sharing the conference helps foster the unity of both organizations.

“Catholic healthcare and Catholic education have much in common and share many core beliefs as they carry on the healing and teaching mission of the church,” he said. “The convergence of people from both ministries to share professional development, liturgy, hospitality, and community is affirming to both groups and creates a genuine sense that we are all in this together,” Stunt said.

There is also a celebratory aspect to the conference, in the form of an awards banquet. In addition to learning and fostering good relationships, the event at its core is also about celebrating Catholic



CCSTA Executive Director John Stunt poses with George Bolduc newly elected president of SCSBA and Mike St. Amand CCSTA President.

health and education in Saskatchewan. To that end, the event included a joint awards banquet, which enabled both sides to showcase and recognize the people who made contributions.

After a Eucharistic liturgy on Saturday evening, participants went to the banquet where the SCSBA presented two awards, recognizing outstanding service to Catholic education and showing appreciation. The Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan also presented two awards. Three of four bishops in Saskatchewan were in attendance with the other unable to be present due to being out of province. Loehndorf said it was positive to see that strong support from the bishops.

“We deeply appreciate the opportunity to get together with our Catholic partners,” Loehndorf said.

## Un congrès conjoint fait ressortir les bonnes nouvelles en soins de santé et en éducation catholique

La Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association et la Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan se sont unies pour organiser un congrès sur la promotion des relations tout en offrant une éducation et des soins de santé basés sur la foi.

Ce congrès, intitulé *On Holy Ground: Where Catholic Health and Education Serve*, s’est déroulé à Saskatoon, du 24 au 26 octobre dernier.

Il s’agissait de la deuxième édition d’un tel congrès, un événement exceptionnel qui offrait aux deux organisations l’occasion d’apprendre et de partager tout en permettant la tenue leurs assemblées générales annuelles respectives.

M. Ken Loehndorf, directeur général de la SCSBA, souligne que ce congrès a pour effet d’unifier les deux groupes.

« Il réunit les gens de notre province qui offrent une éducation et des soins de santé catholiques; nous nous appuyons mutuellement, » dit-il. « Chacun a la possibilité de croître dans sa foi en apprenant, en comprenant les défis, tout en identifiant nos points communs. »

Parmi les conférenciers invités, on retrouvait le père Tony Richard et le Dr Matthew Sleeth. Le père Richard a discuté de l’amour inconditionnel de Dieu et de l’émulation de l’enfant Jésus, tandis que le Dr Sleeth proposait une vie plus heureuse et plus saine en honorant la sainteté du Sabbat.

Les deux organisations ont présenté une session plénière pour permettre à chacune de mieux con-

naître l’autre. Le volet éducation comprenait un panel composé d’élèves, d’enseignants, de conseillers scolaires et d’administrateurs. Ils ont partagé leurs expériences personnelles ainsi que leurs « témoignages de bonne nouvelle » pour souligner l’aspect distinct de l’éducation catholique et son impact sur leurs vies.

M. Loehndorf mentionnait que le panel a touché plusieurs participants parce que ses membres, de provenances variées, ont relaté sans détours des événements positifs qui se produisent dans le milieu éducatif catholique dans la province. Parmi ceux-là, on comptait M. Mike St. Amand, président de l’Association canadienne des commissaires d’écoles catholiques et lui-même conseiller scolaire, qui a parlé de l’impact de l’éducation catholique sur lui-même en tant qu’individu et père de famille. Se sont aussi exprimés un enseignant chevronné provenant de Regina, un élève qui fréquente une école secondaire catholique de la Saskatchewan, un directeur de l’éducation ainsi que Mgr Albert Thévenot.

« Ce panel a bien réussi à amener les gens à comprendre que l’éducation catholique, c’est bien plus qu’un crucifix sur le mur et une prière de temps à autre, » dit M. Loehndorf. « Notre foi fait partie de tout ce que nous faisons et c’est là une caractéristique de l’éducation catholique. »

M. John Stunt, directeur général de l’ACCEC, qui participait à ce congrès le mois dernier, rap-

porte que l’évènement a fortement contribué à unifier les deux organisations.

« Les soins de santé catholiques et l’éducation catholique ont beaucoup en commun et partagent des croyances fondamentales au cours de leur mission de soigner et d’enseigner, » dit-il. « La convergence des gens de ces deux ministères de l’église pour partager apprentissage professionnel, communauté, liturgie et hospitalité représente une affirmation des deux groupes et crée un véritable sens d’unité pour une même cause. »

Un banquet de remise de prix constituait le volet célébration du congrès. À la base, ce congrès a pour but de célébrer les services de santé et d’éducation catholique en Saskatchewan. Le banquet de remise des prix a donc permis de mettre en valeur les deux organisations et reconnaître les réalisations de certains de leurs membres.

Suite à la liturgie eucharistique du samedi soir, les participants se sont rendus au banquet où la SCSBA a remis deux prix : l’un en reconnaissance d’une contribution exceptionnelle et l’autre pour appréciation. La Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan a aussi remis deux prix. Trois des quatre évêques de la Saskatchewan étaient présents, la quatrième étant hors de la province à ce moment. M. Loehndorf a mentionné son appréciation pour l’appui des évêques. « Nous apprécions grandement cette opportunité de nous rassembler avec nos partenaires catholiques, » dit-il.

# Provincial Reports

## British Columbia

### Kamloops Diocese

All Saints Catholic E-school Network Delivered – ASCEND Online –: This is the Catholic Distributed Learning School – All Saints Catholic E-school Network. This year more than 300 students will be enrolled by the end of November. Last year at this time there were 230 students. The Online service continues to grow. There is a fair amount of international interest for online courses, especially from Korea.

### Nelson Diocese

Mr. Arthur Therrien is the new Nelson Diocese Superintendent. He spent 27 years with Island Catholic schools where he served as district Principal in addition to his job as Principal of Queen of Angels Catholic school in Duncan.

Enrolment is up by 15%. This increase is spread through the seven schools. The diocese has a total of six Catholic elementary schools which are located in Nelson, Trail, Cranbrook, Penticton, Kelowna, West Kelowna and one high school in Kelowna.

### Diocese of Victoria

The diocese is in the process of trying to sell the St. Andrew's Elementary school site. The asking price is \$10 million. The funds will be used to pay for phase one of the building project. The next phase to begin is upgrades to St. Patrick's Elementary school and St Andrew's High School.

Last year, we mentioned the Diocese of Victoria's Catholic Schools Plan and its vision for safe, affordable and sustainable Catholic schools. In the Spring, Island Catholic Schools started construction of a \$6 million renewal of St. Joseph's Elementary School.

Pope Francis has named Whitehorse Bishop Gary Gordon as the new Bishop of Victoria. Bishop Gordon has served as the spiritual leader of the Diocese of Whitehorse since 2006.

### Prince George Diocese

The schools are at capacity or growing. They have increased enrolment by over 100 students for 2014 – 2015. This is due to the expansion at St. Anthony's in Kitimat with the addition of Grade 8 and the expansion at Veritas in Terrace with the addition of Grade 9. They now have six schools with K – 7, two schools with K – 8 and one school with K – 9.

### Archdiocese of Vancouver



Dan Moric

Mr. Dan Moric, head of Administration for the Archdiocese of Vancouver will become the new Superintendent of Catholic schools for the Vancouver Archdiocese. This appointment is effective following the retirement of the current Superintendent,

Mr. Doug Lauson, at the end of next year.

The 36th Catholic Educators' Conference will be held February 12 and 13, 2015 at the Vancouver Convention Centre. The theme is "Live the Joy of the Gospel". The conference is held each year to provide an opportunity for the spiritual and professional growth of Catholic educators. Mr. Dean Shareski is the keynote speaker. He is the Community Manager for Discovery Education Canada. He has taught in several grades before becoming the Digital Learning Consultant for Prairie South School Division in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

### Catholic Independent Schools Committee of BC

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

### The Federation of Independent Schools Association – FISA

FISA was established in 1966 as an umbrella organization for all independent schools in BC. It is the voice for all of its members and acts as a liaison between the schools and the government and other educational offices. Statistics published by the FISA show that the 292 independent schools account for 12.4% of all school aged children in the province; 30.8% of the 76,415 independent school students attend Catholic schools.

Doug Lauson, the Superintendent of the Archdiocese of Vancouver is the President of FISA.

David Byng was appointed as the new Deputy Minister of Education on July 28, 2014. He has been a public service employee for 34 years. He supports parental choice in education. His wife is an independent school teacher.

The impact of the strike has provided FISA an opportunity to get positive messages to the public correcting the myths about independent schools.

### Property Tax Issue

Several municipalities have notified independent schools in their municipalities that they will have their permissive tax exemption removed. Independent schools are provided with property tax exemption under the Community Charter, section 220 and 224, with the municipalities having authority over the permissive exemption granted under section 224.

The FISA BC board of directors is committed to defending the right of independent schools to operate as property tax exempt institutions of learning in a similar manner to public schools that have a statutory entitlement to property tax exemption.

FISA has been dealing with this issue for two years. It has cost close to \$60,000 in legal fees to date. FISA is attempting to take independent schools out of the Community Charter Act and place them in the School Act. Any properties used for educational purposes would be tax exempt. It would essentially involve re-writing the Independent School Act to include a section on taxation.

The issue has not gone away. FISA will continue to lobby for legislative changes for full exemption.

No short-term solution is predicted.

## Alberta/NWT

### Advocacy/Communications

The ACSTA prepared the attached one-page briefing sheet about the association and the current issues that are being addressed and sent it to all Alberta MLAs. We also extended an offer to the MLAs to introduce ourselves and to meet in person, as an executive or through their local separate school board. As a result of this, we have already met with a number of MLAs throughout the summer and have meetings scheduled into the fall.

The Catholic Education Symposium: Growing Forward Final Report and Workbook was circulated to the trustees at the 2014 ACSTA AGM & Convention. This document outlines the message and themes of the Symposium and it includes a workbook that can be used by a variety of stakeholder communities including schools, parishes, board offices, and school councils to enhance Catholic education.

In June, ACSTA announced the winners of the 2014 G.R.A.C.E. 2 (God's Riches Alive in Catholic Education) student short video contest. The contest, in its second year, received entries from across the province. The entries presented a vibrant and unique view of what Catholic education brings to Alberta's students. The winning videos can be viewed on the ACSTA website <http://www.acsta.ab.ca/>

### Faith Development

Currently a committee of Religion consultants is working on revisions to the Religious Studies 15, 25 and 35 curriculums to meet the criteria of the Alberta Education's Inspiring Education initiative and the new Locally Developed Course policy.

Plans were well underway this fall for the 2014 ACSTA AGM & Convention which took place Nov. 14-16 at The Westin Edmonton. Guest speaker, Sr. Miriam Heidland, addressed the theme "The Transforming Power of Authentic Love."

### Governance

The annual Board of Directors and Executive Director evaluations took place in June. The evaluations were facilitated by Dr. Garry Andrews, who utilized a new approach which included face-to-face interviews, surveys and small-group discussions. The new process was a welcoming change from the one used previously.

## Saskatchewan

### Faith in Our Students Campaign

Glen Gantfoer, Communications Committee Chairperson, facilitated a discussion related to SCSBA the "Faith in Our Students Campaign". This campaign is being launched during the 2014/15 school year to celebrate the good news of Catholic Education in Saskatchewan.

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To assist with the campaign, SCSBA has hired a part-time Communications Coordinator in partnership with Regina Catholic Schools. Deacon Joe Lang began work for the SCSBA in August of 2014.

## Theodore Court Case

Ken Loehndorf reported that the SCSBA is busy preparing for the court case. Examinations for Discovery are winding down, with all undertakings to have been submitted by October 31, 2014.

Lawyers for the plaintiff are asking for a Pre-trial conference as soon as possible, and it is anticipated that a date will be set for February 2015.

It is very likely that the trial will be scheduled for May/June 2015.

## SCSBA/CHAS Joint Conference

Lisa Lambert reported that the date for the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association/Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan Joint Conference was October 24-26, 2014, at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel in Saskatoon. The Conference theme was: "On Holy Ground: Where Catholic Health & Education Serve" (see page 5 for story).

## SCSBA Spring Seminar

The Board of Directors thanked Vicky Bonnell and RCSSD #81 Board of Education and administrative staff for an exceptional 2014 SCSBA Spring Seminar.

Amanda Lindhout gave a moving keynote on Friday night. On Saturday those in attendance were treated to thought-provoking keynotes by Dr. John Meehan, SJ and Dr. Sami Helewa, SJ.

## Grades 9 - 12 Catholic Studies Curriculum Development

Lorel Trumier reported that on May 9, 2014, the Reference Committee interviewed four strong candidates for the writing position.

The committee approved the hiring of Rob Schann from Regina and Rob has been seconded to do the writing for the first semester of the 2014/15 school year.

The most recent meeting of the reference committee was on September 24, 2014.

## Warman RCSSD#213 Amalgamation Update

Ken Loehndorf reported that the Minister's Order in Council, to approve the amalgamation of the Warman RCSSD#213 and Greater Saskatoon Schools was received on August 18, 2014.

With the amalgamation, students in Warman will have access to a Catholic education in Saskatoon, with busing provided by Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

## Sister's Legacy Committee Update

Paula Scott reported that plans for this project are proceeding nicely. The fund raising component has been extremely successful and is nearing completion.

The committee is working on finalizing a site for the monument and a date for the unveiling ceremony in Regina. The committee is hopeful

that the celebration will take place in the fall of 2015.

## SCSBA Catholic Education Symposium

Paula Scott reported that a committee of the Lloydminster Catholic Board of Education has agreed to host a Catholic Education Symposium on April 24/25, 2015 at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel in Saskatoon.

The committee has booked Dr. Reginald Bibby from the University of Lethbridge and Archbishop Micheal Miller from the Archdiocese of Vancouver, to serve as keynote speakers for the symposium.

## SCSBA Awards

The Board of Directors approved the recipients of the Julian Paslawski Meritorious Service Award and the SCSBA Appreciation Award, which was announced at the October 25, 2014 banquet at the Joint SCSBA/CHAS Conference.

## Manitoba

### Enrollment Overview

The 18 Catholic schools in Manitoba have a fairly consistent population. The school age population in Manitoba is now remaining constant after years of decline. Final numbers are taken on September 30, which is then reported to the Province in order to receive funding. In this current year, the Province of Manitoba will provide each full time equivalent student \$5,274 in support which represents a 3.7% increase from the 2013/14 school year. This grant represents 50% of the cost of educating a public school student in Manitoba in the 2012/13 school year. Each school also receives a \$60 curriculum support grant per student and are eligible for special needs funding for individual students of \$9,220 (level II) or \$20,515 (level III) on a case by case basis.

### Bill 18

In December, 2012, The Government of Manitoba introduced Bill 18 (Safe and Inclusive Schools) as an amendment to the Public Schools Act. In Manitoba, Catholic Schools are independent schools and would not have to follow the Public Schools Act. However section 60.5 of the Act relates to our funding. Section 60.5 (g) allows the Minister of Education to make regulations that funded independent schools must follow. The Minister of Education has informed us that we must follow the terms of Bill 18. This requires us to have a respecting human diversity policy. After a year of development and consultation, the Catholic Schools Office and the Archbishop of Winnipeg, Archbishop of Saint Boniface, and the Ukrainian Catholic Archbishop of Winnipeg approved a policy for use in all Catholic schools in the Province of Manitoba. Our diversity policy is in keeping with Catholic Church teachings and is entitled, Respect for Human Dignity and Equality. A guideline for student groups was also developed to support schools. It allows for student to form groups such as Respecting Human Dignity and Equality clubs. All student groups must follow the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Teachers and administrators were trained in a series of workshops by Leah Perrault of Saskatoon. St. Mary's Academy was our first high school in which students created a club to support students with same sex attraction using our guidelines for student groups. This process has been very positive for all involved.

## The Sadlier Program

The Bishops of Manitoba approved for use (September 2013) the Sadlier program, We Believe, at the nursery to Grade 8 levels. Most schools are now starting the second year using this program and we have received positive feedback. Other schools will start using the program in September of this year. Teachers were trained by Dr. Sandra Kennedy of New Orleans in a series of workshops last fall. We Believe offers our teachers and students a current and well developed program to develop the faith. We are pleased with the easy to use format and technology resources that Sadlier provides for teachers. It was nice to have a program that could be implemented at one time for our nursery to grade eight schools.

## Ontario

### Online Trustee PD Modules

OCSTA's first ever online Trustee Professional Development resource was launched at the end of September. The resource is called the Good Governance Centre and it is housed on the OCSTA website at: <http://www.ocsta.on.ca/trustee-professional-development/>

At the core of this program are the 15 trustee modules developed by the Ontario Education Services Corporation and delivered by OCSTA at various conferences and seminars between 2011 and 2014.

A decision was made by the Board of Directors to make these modules available online to facilitate easy and flexible access by all trustees. All that is required is a computer, OCSTA's membership ID information and payment.

Modules will be accessible via the OCSTA website, 24 hours a day. Trustees can purchase modules using PayPal or a credit card. Modules that have already been completed at previous OCSTA events have been preloaded to trustee user profiles for immediate access.

Upon successful completion of a module, the system provides users with a certificate, which can be printed locally. Upon successful completion of all 15 modules, the system will provide a "program" certificate which can also be printed locally.

Providing online access for this content will support professional development goals for current and new trustees, who may not have already taken these courses.

### Catholic Education Week

The theme for the 2015 Catholic Education Week program is Exploring Paths of Joy. A package explaining this program was sent to all schools in September (and is on the OCSTA/Catholic Education Week website).

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# Provincial Reports

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Catholic Education Week (CEW) happens May 3 – May 8, 2015, however, throughout the 2014-15 school year various school packages are developed by OCSTA's CEW committee and shared with all CDSBs.

An "Advance Package" containing prayers, reflections and other resources will be sent out to boards in November to help observe the Advent season and the various sub-themes that are part of this year's Catholic Education Week celebration.

NOTE: The popular province-wide Mass that was initiated and organized by last year's student trustee executive will once again happen this year. The date for the 2015 province-wide Mass is May 7, 2015.

## October 27 Municipal Elections Resources

The school trustee election website and resources coordinated and managed by all four of Ontario's trustee associations is succeeding at helping to raise awareness about the important role of school trustees in Ontario's education system. The resource can be found online at:

<http://elections.ontarioschooltrustees.org/en/elections/2014/>

One of the resources created to support this effort is the All Candidates Meeting Guide. This guide is designed to help Parent Involvement Committees, School Councils and other Community groups with organizing education-specific meetings that will allow communities to hear directly from candidates running for office.

OCSTA created on its website a Municipal Election Information page to assist Catholic rate-payers with the information they need to ensure that they can vote for their local Catholic school trustee.

## Advent the Theme for OCSTA Student Video Contest

The Faith in Our Future activity for this season is another student short-video contest. This season's contest is focused on the theme of Advent.

These video contests celebrating the distinctiveness of Catholic education, continue to grow in popularity and involve all students from grades 4 to 12. Boards are encouraged to invite all students and staff to get involved.

NEW this year: all submissions on the theme of Advent that meet contest guidelines will be screened throughout December on OCSTA's YouTube channel and on the Association's websites.

The OCSTA Communications Committee will select the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and those winning entries will be announced and screened at the January Professional Development Seminar.

For more information visit: <http://www.faithinourfuture.ca/student-video/>



St. Mary C.S.S. students (Hamilton-Wentworth CDSB) serving the needs of others in the Dominican Republic.

Park. En éducation, le gouvernement continue de déclarer qu'il appuie les quatre systèmes existants. Du côté francophone, le système des écoles catholiques de langue française est très performant. Les résultats des tests de l'OQRE le démontrent régulièrement, et cela grâce au travail acharné de tous nos employés et nous les félicitons toutes et tous.

Les élections municipales ont eu lieu le 27 octobre dernier. Plusieurs de nos conseillers, conseillères ont été élus sans opposition. Un certain nombre a choisi de ne pas se représenter. À ceux-là nous voulons dire merci pour leurs années de service et d'engagement à leur communauté francophone. Aux nouveaux élus nous leur souhaitons succès et la possibilité eux aussi de servir les élèves et les parents.

## Visite à Queen's Park

Le 18 septembre dernier, le président Jean Lemay, la vice-présidente et le directeur général ont rencontré la ministre de l'Éducation, l'honorable Liz Sandals, pour lui parler des priorités de l'AFOCSC en ce début de nouvelle année scolaire. Lors de cette visite, les points suivants ont été abordés parmi d'autres:

Relations de travail (l'AFOCSC est prête à entreprendre son rôle en tant qu'agent négociateur patronal)

Planification stratégique de l'AFOCSC (priorités pour les cinq prochaines années)

Formation des conseillères et conseillers scolaires (formation suite aux élections municipales)

Identification des contribuables (décroissance du nombre de contribuables identifiés par la Société d'évaluation foncière des municipalités).

## Relations de travail

Le dossier des relations de travail a été une grande priorité pour l'AFOCSC pendant l'été 2014. Suite à l'approbation du conseil d'administration de l'AFOCSC, nous avons pu recruter deux nouvelles employées pour appuyer notre directrice des relations de travail lors de cette ronde de négociation. Mlle Christelle

Mulombo qui a été retenue pour occuper le poste d'adjointe administrative ce qu'elle fait depuis le 2 septembre.

Mme Véronique-Anne Towner-Sarault travaillera à l'AFOCSC à demi-temps en tant que conseillère en relations de travail. Un grand merci au Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud de nous l'avoir prêtée!

## Déménagement des bureaux de l'AFOCSC

Depuis le 1er octobre dernier, l'AFOCSC est située à la suite 1202 au 67 rue Yonge à l'angle Yonge et King au centre-ville de Toronto. Les numéros de téléphone et de télécopieur demeurent les mêmes. L'ouverture officielle de nos nouveaux bureaux se tiendra le 11 décembre prochain.

## Rencontre avec les évêques francophones et réunion du C.A.

La rencontre d'automne avec les évêques et l'OPÉCO a eu lieu le 9 octobre suivie de la réunion du conseil d'administration de l'AFOCSC l'après-midi du 9 et le lendemain 10 octobre. Maître Mark Powers a fait une présentation le 9 octobre en matinée sur « Enjeux légaux et écoles catholiques ».

En résumé, voici les décisions issues de cette session du conseil d'administration :

- L'AFOCSC travaillera en collaboration avec ses 8 conseils membres pour établir les directions communes à suivre dans le traitement des demandes d'exemption des cours d'enseignement religieux;
- L'AFOCSC a retenu les services du cabinet juridique Juristes Power;
- La direction a présenté aux membres du conseil d'administration la planification opérationnelle de 2015;
- Les membres du conseil d'administration a approuvé l'organisation d'une journée de formation pour tous les conseillères, con-

## AFOCSC

### Élections – provinciales et municipales

Depuis la dernière élection provinciale en juin dernier, Avec un gouvernement majoritaire en place, une nouvelle stabilité s'installe à Queen's

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# Provincial Reports

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seillers scolaires, membres de l'AFOCSC, suite à la formation provinciale organisée par le ministère de l'Éducation;

- Le conseil d'administration a adopté le mandat de négociation pour la présente ronde de négociations;
- L'AFOCSC tentera de rencontrer le ministre des Finances de l'Ontario pour discuter de l'identification de contribuables aux écoles catholiques de langue française.

## Retraite de M. Luciano Piovesan

Après une longue et fructueuse carrière à titre de directeur général de l'Assemblée des évêques catholiques de l'Ontario (AÉCO), Luciano (Lou) a pris sa retraite le 6 octobre dernier.

L'AFOCSC souhaite la bienvenue à Roger Lawler, nouveau directeur général de l'AÉCO.

Roger sera appuyé par l'abbé Jean Vézina dans l'exécution de ses responsabilités envers les francophones de la province. L'AFOCSC souhaite à Roger et à Jean beaucoup de succès dans leur nouveau rôle.

## Événements à signaler

- 16 – 18 octobre 2014: à Niagara Falls - 24e congrès de la FNCSF
- 15 janvier 2015: à Toronto - Journée de formation des conseillers scolaires
- 12 mars 2015: à Toronto - Réunion OPÉCO et partenaires
- 30 avril au 2 mai 2015: Toronto - Congrès annuel OCSTA
- 11 au 13 juin 2015: à St John's, (Terre Neuve) - Congrès annuel ACCEC

## AFOCSC

### Elections – provincial and municipal

Since the provincial election last June, there is a majority government in place and with it a new stability has established itself at Queen's Park. In the area of education, the Government continues to declare its support for the four existing school systems. For the Catholic francophone system, the overall performance of its students is quite high. The EQAO test results attest to it regularly, and for this success we have to thank the diligent and hard work of our employees.

Municipal elections were held at the end of the month on October 27. Many of our trustees were elected by acclamation. On the other hand, a certain number of them opted not to run again. To these we wish to say Thank You for their years of service and commitment to their community. To those who were elected, we wish them success and the possibility of also serving the students and parents in their respective areas.

### Visit at Queen's Park

On September 18, the president Jean Lemay, the vice-president and the executive director met with the Minister of Education, Liz Sandals, in order to outline AFOCSC's priorities for the coming school year. During the course of the meeting the following topics, among others, were discussed:

- Labour relations – negotiations (AFOCSC

is ready to assume its role as part of the employer bargaining agent);

- AFOCSC's strategic plan for the next five years;
- Training for our trustees following the municipal elections, and;
- Identification of Catholic francophone taxpayers (there is an apparent decrease in the contributors as identified by MPAC, the Municipal property assessment corporation) This has been an ongoing file with Ministry and MPAC staff.

### Labour relations

This has been a priority subject during the course of the summer as our association has proceeded to hire staff in preparation for the upcoming provincial contract negotiations. Subsequent to our board of directors' approval, we were able to hire two new support staff to work with our director of labour relations during this round of negotiations. Mlle. Christelle Mulombo was selected as administrative assistant and began work on September 2.

Véronique-Anne Towner-Sarault is working part time in the capacity of consultant in labour relations. She is on secondment from and thanks to the Conseil scolaire catholique du Centre-Sud. (Toronto and area board)

### AFOCSC moves its offices

As of October 1, AFOCSC is now located in Suite 1202 at 67 Yonge Street, at the corner of Yonge and King, downtown Toronto. Our telephone and fax numbers have not changed. The official opening will be held December 11.

### Meeting with francophone Bishops and Board meeting

The traditional fall meeting with the Bishops and OPÉCO (Provincial office of catholic education) was held on October 9 followed by AFOCSC's board meeting in the afternoon of the 9th and on the 10th of October. On the morning of the 9th, lawyer Mark Power gave a short talk on "Legal implications concerning certain dossiers and Catholic schools".

In brief, these are some of the decisions emanating from the Board's session:

- AFOCSC will work in collaboration with its 8 member boards to establish a common approach in dealing with requests for exemptions from religious courses;
- AFOCSC has retained the legal services of Juristes Power;
- The administration presented its operational plan for 2015 which was adopted by the Board;
- The members of the Board approved the organization of a day of training for all trustees of AFOCSC following the day of training organized by the Ministry;
- The Board approved the mandate for the present round of provincial negotiations, and;
- AFOCSC will try to meet with the Minister of Finance in an attempt to discuss the issue of the identification of ratepayers supportive of Catholic French language schools.

### Luciano Piovesan retires

After a long and successful career as executive

director of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, Luciano known as "Lou" announced his retirement on October 6. AFOCSC welcomes his successor Roger Lawler, who will be assisted by Abbé Jean Vézina to help in providing services to the francophone community. AFOCSC wishes both of them much success in their new roles.

### Important Toonies contribution

The Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario (Sudbury area) collected a total of \$2,000 in its Toonies campaign which was remitted to CCSTA for the endowment fund. Congratulations go to them for their effort and we hope other boards will be encouraged to follow.

### Upcoming events

- October 16-18, 2014, Niagara Falls - 24th AGM & conference FNCSF (a national federation of French language school boards)
- January 15, 2015, Toronto – Day of training for trustees
- March 12th, 2015, Toronto – Meeting with Bishops, OPÉCO and partners
- April 30th to May 2nd, 2015, Toronto – OCSTA annual AGM
- June 11th to 13th, 2015, St. John's Nfld – CCSTA AGM

## Atlantic Region

### AGM Planning

The Board of Governors of St. Bonaventure's College continues to plan for the June 11 - 13, 2015 CCSTA convention in St. John's. The Board is most thankful for the hospitality experienced at the Kingston 2014 convention hosted by the Algonquin and Lakeshore CDSB in June. Many delegates there expressed interest in coming to St. John's and St. Bonaventure's is confident that a good time will be had by all who attend the 2015 convention. The five RCISA, AR Boards have been forwarded the convention 2015 brochure and members and administrators continue to be encouraged to attend the convention.

### Enrollment Status

Schools of the Atlantic Region are back to classes with final enrollment figures to come in October. There has been no change in the zero funding policy of the three provincial governments concerned. Boards continue to struggle to keep registration fees at an acceptable level for parents. A new public school teachers contract in NL, for example, puts pressure on NL independent school boards to maintain a reasonable gap between the salaries they offer teachers and that offered in the public system. And salary rates always affect tuition rates.

### Toonies for Tuition

Member schools have been notified of the 2014-15 campaign Toonies for Tuition; a good response is anticipated. As in past years, our schools are most appreciative of the CCSTA bursary awards of the past year. Those awards help in the overall tuition assistance programs that schools have in place to make education affordable especially to families in need.

# Chaplain's Corner/ Un mot de l'aumônier

## Five Temptations

In his closing remarks at the Synod on the family, Pope Francis warns the participants and all the Church members not to give in to five temptations. Can this warning also apply to Catholic school trustees?

**The temptation to hostile inflexibility.** This is the temptation to oppose all that is new; to absolutely want to keep things as they are even if they do not respond to people's needs in today's world.

**The temptation to a destructive tendency to goodness.**

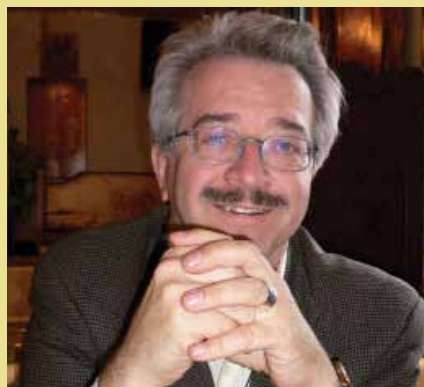
Pope Francis describes this temptation this way: "that in the name of a deceptive mercy (it) binds the wounds without first curing them and treating them; that (it) treats the symptoms and not the causes and the roots". It is sometimes easier to extinguish fires than to eliminate the combustible matter that may suddenly ignite. Do we not quite often make exception rather than changing our policies?

**The temptation to transform stones into bread and the temptation to transform bread into stones.** Do we avoid decisions that require effort and patience? Must we not at times deal with uncertainties that invite us to deeper reflection? Or even still, do we impose on our personnel or our students, expectations that in the word of the Holy Father become "unbearable burdens"?

**The temptation to come down off the Cross.** This is the temptation to be "politically correct". It is true that denominational schools are challenged by today's secular society. It sails against the current. It would be a lot easier to argue in favour of a linguistic based educational system. But what a loss for those who attend these schools! What a loss for society itself! Who would then transmit in a pedagogical way the Christian values and the road of happiness they propose to all? Our perplexed world dearly needs such an education!

**The temptation to neglect what is entrusted to us.** Even though we are called to be the guarantor of the quality in education, we are not however the proprietors of the education system. Must we not share with parents, teachers, professionals, Christian and civil communities this responsibility to foster quality education to the students entrusted to us? To do so, we must dialogue with different interveners, speak a language accessible to all, listen to new ideas, suggestions and requests to guarantee an educational system that rests on the four pillars proposed by UNESCO: learn how to know, learn how to make, learn how to live together and learn how to be.

It is up to us to avoid these temptations or at least to be aware of them.



Fr. Rémi Lessard  
CCSTA Chaplain/Aumônier

## Cinq Tentations

Dans son discours de fermeture au synode sur la famille, le Pape François met en garde les participants et l'Église tout entière contre cinq tentations. S'appliquent-elles à nos responsabilités de conseillers et conseillères scolaires ?

**La tentation du raidissement hostile.** C'est la tentation de s'opposer à tout changement, de vouloir garder les choses comme elles sont même si elles ne répondent plus aux besoins du moment présent.

**La tentation de l'angélisme destructeur.** Le pape François la décrit comme « une miséricorde trompeuse (qui) bande les blessures sans d'abord les soigner ni les traiter; qui s'attaque aux symptômes et pas aux causes et aux racines. » Il est parfois plus facile d'éteindre des feux sans jamais que de prendre le temps d'éliminer les matières combustibles qui sont les véritables foyers d'incendie ? Nous arrive-t-il de faire constamment des exceptions au lieu de changer les politiques ?

**La tentation de transformer la pierre en pain ou celle de transformer le pain en pierre.** Évitions-nous à tout prix les décisions qui demandent efforts et temps. Ne faut-il pas à certains moments porter l'incertitude qui nous invite à la réflexion ? Ou encore, d'avoir envers notre personnel ou nos élèves des exigences trop élevées qui deviennent, pour prendre l'expression du Saint-Père, des « fardeaux insupportables » ?

**La tentation de descendre de la croix.** Celle du « politically correct ». Il est vrai que l'éducation confessionnelle n'a pas bonne presse dans la société séculière d'aujourd'hui. Elle est à contre-courant. Il serait beaucoup plus facile de revendiquer un système d'éducation basé sur la langue. Mais quelle perte pour ceux et celles qui fréquentent nos écoles ! Quelle perte pour notre société ! Nous sommes les garants de la transmission des valeurs chrétiennes et de la route de bonheur qu'elles proposent. Dans un monde si confus, notre société en a grandement besoin.

**La tentation de négliger ce qui nous est confié.** Il est vrai que sommes les garants de la qualité de l'éducation, mais nous ne sommes pas les propriétaires du système de l'éducation. Ne nous faut-il pas partager avec d'autres, parents, enseignants, professionnels, communautés chrétiennes et civiles, cette responsabilité de voir à ce que la meilleure éducation soit livrée aux élèves qui nous sont confiés ? Pour cela, il importe d'entrer en communication avec différents intervenants, parler un langage que tout le monde connaît, écouter les idées, les suggestions et les revendications pour finalement assurer un système d'éducation qui repose sur les quatre piliers proposés par l'UNESCO : « apprendre à connaître, apprendre à faire, apprendre à vivre ensemble et apprendre à être » ?

Il nous appartient d'éviter les tentations ou tout au moins d'en être conscients.



*Merry*  
CHRISTMAS



*Joyeux*  
NOËL

*May His love, His Joy, and His peace  
continue to fill your heart with wonder.  
Blessings to you this Christmas.*



*Que Son amour, Sa joie et Sa paix continue de  
comblent votre coeur de merveilles.  
Nous vous offrons nos meilleurs vœux de  
Noël.*