

# Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association

## Association canadienne des commissaires d'écoles catholiques



June/Juin 2015

CCSTA NEWSLETTER/ COMMUNIQUÉ DE L'ACCEC

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

## Welcome to Newfoundland!

There is an air of excitement as we await the start of the 2015 CCSTA Annual General Meeting and conference. The conference was last held in St John's in 2006, and 2015 is shaping up to be equally as successful. Delegates will be exposed to warm Newfoundland hospitality while witnessing the region's strong culture. In fact, a number of the delegates are extending their stay in Newfoundland either prior to or following the conference.

St. John's is the oldest city in North America, and the pre-conference tour will take the delegates to Cape Spear, which is the most easterly point in North America. The delegates will see some of the highlighted areas of the city - The basilica of St. John the Baptist, Signal Hill where Marconi sent the first wireless message across the Atlantic, Quidi Village as well as other historic sites across the city. The companion tour will take them to Cupids, which is one of the oldest towns in the province. Just two blocks from the host hotel, the entertainment is second to none with a variety to meet the needs of both young and old. There's little doubt one of the highlights of the week will be a seafood buffet at the Knights of Columbus hall on Friday night.

St Bonaventure's College, which is an Independent Catholic school in the Jesuit tradition, is proud to host the 2015 CCSTA spring conference. Although the week of the conference will be exam week for the senior students at St Bon's, the students will nevertheless be involved in a number of events. These will include the tree-planting ceremony on Wednesday, opening liturgy and ceremonies on Thursday night, morning liturgy on Friday and a performance at the Gala on Saturday Night. The students will participate in a special mass at the St Bon's school chapel on Wednesday evening.

Delegate registration is high, and a large number of companions will be attending. In addition to the social aspect, St. Bon's will share the experience and the challenges faced with Government's decision to eliminate denominational education in Nfld. St Bon's as it exists today, is a success story involving hard work and personal sacrifice. This will be a learning experience for all the delegates and hopefully will provide a deeper appreciation for what they have and the need to protect it.



## Bienvenue à Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador!

On ressent un air de fébrilité à l'approche du Congrès/Assemblée générale annuelle de l'ACCEC 2015. Le congrès avait déjà eu lieu à St. John's en 2006, et l'édition 2015 promet d'être tout aussi fructueuse. Les participants profiteront de la chaude hospitalité terre-neuvienne-et-labradorienne tout en participant à sa vibrante culture. En effet, plusieurs prolongeront leur séjour soit en devant le congrès, ou en y restant quelques jours après.

St. John's est la ville la plus ancienne de l'Amérique du Nord, et la visite guidée pré-congrès mènera les participants à Cape-Spear, le site le plus à l'Est du continent. Ils verront aussi certains des sites principaux de la ville : la basilique St. John the Baptist, Signal Hill d'où Marconi a envoyé le premier message sans fil à travers l'Atlantique, Quidi Village, et plusieurs autres. Un autre tour optionnel pourra les amener à Cupids, l'une des plus anciennes villes de la province. À deux pas de l'hôtel principal, on trouvera des divertissements de grande qualité, et ce pour toutes les générations. Le buffet de fruits de mer du vendredi soir à la salle des Chevaliers de Colomb sera sans doute le fait saillant de la semaine.

St. Bonaventure's College, une école catholique

indépendante dans la tradition jésuite, est fier d'accueillir le congrès du printemps de l'ACCEC 2015. Bien que la durée du congrès coïncide à la semaine d'examen pour les élèves seniors de St. Bon's, ces derniers seront néanmoins impliqués dans plusieurs activités. Entre autres, il y aura la cérémonie de la plantation d'un arbre le mercredi, la liturgie et les cérémonies d'ouverture du jeudi soir, la liturgie matinale du vendredi et le spectacle au gala du samedi soir. Le mercredi soir, les élèves participeront à une messe spéciale dans la chapelle de St. Bon's.

Le nombre d'inscription est élevé, et plusieurs des participants seront accompagnés. En plus de sa participation au volet social, St. Bon's témoignera de son expérience et des défis découlant de la décision du gouvernement de TNL d'abolir l'enseignement confessionnel dans la province. L'école telle qu'elle existe aujourd'hui est un exemple de réussite, mais au prix d'un travail acharné et de plusieurs sacrifices personnels. Ce sera une expérience enrichissante pour tous les participants et les participantes et nous souhaitons qu'ils en gagnent une meilleure appréciation de ce qu'ils possèdent et de la nécessité de le protéger.

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## President's Message

As I reflect on my first year as President I quickly realize there are so many people that do so much for Catholic Education in this country. They do it willingly without reservations, and their commitment, dedication and passion are an inspiration.

I would like to thank our board of directors for their dedication and commitment to Catholic Education and the CCSTA. The work completed by the committees and at our board table is truly appreciated by myself and they bring their talents to make our organization better and stronger.

This year, we welcomed two new board members: Margaret Savidge from the Atlantic Region and Bob Schreder from OCSTA, whom we had the opportunity to work with at our Board meeting last October. Their insight and knowledge were evident during our time together. We have asked all trustees to continue to advocate at the local and provincial levels with their MPs, and we know that by speaking with our champions and thanking them for their support, every effort does help.

It has been a very busy and exciting year as I travelled to AGM's in Saskatchewan, Alberta last fall and then most recently I had the opportunity to attend the OCSTA conference in Toronto and the AFOCSC in Timmins. The sessions that I experienced and keynote speakers who I heard were all excellent. Well done to all the people who organize and make these professional development sessions so worthwhile and fulfilling.

In April, John Stunt and I attended the NCEA convention in Orlando, Florida. What struck me was the dedication these Catholic educators have for their schools and students. They have no government funding, and when I explained how we had government funding for some of our schools, they were quite surprised and envious of our situation. We are truly blessed and can never take for granted our gift of Catholic Education.

Our Toonies for Tuition fundraiser continues to help us with families who want Catholic Education for their children in the provinces that have limited or no funding. Thank you to all who continue to support and promote this worthwhile cause.

This year comes with change and one of them is the retirement of our Executive Director John Stunt. John's dedication and commitment to Catholic Education has been without question throughout his time as an Educator, Administrator and Executive Director in Ontario, and most recently as our Executive Director. John has always known who to speak with and what needed to be done; this is a man who has given tirelessly of himself, and for that, we are truly grateful. We want to wish John and his wife Marnie all the best in their retirement!

With this change, our board started the process to hire a new Executive director. We are truly blessed to welcome Julian Hanlon from the Ottawa Catholic School Board to the Executive Director. Julian will begin his duties July 1, 2015.

This year's Justice Higgins award winner, Bonaventure Fagan, is such an excellent recipient of this prestigious award. His dedication, passion and commitment to Catholic Education is second to none. I am very proud to call him my friend!

The folks in St. John's have worked very hard to prepare our AGM/conference, and we can expect great sessions and excellent speakers. We want to thank them for a job well done!

Please take time to pray for our students, parents and teachers and all staff as they prepare for the end of the school year. May God Bless you all and watch over your families this summer!

Respectfully,

Mike St.Amand  
CCSTA President



CCSTA/ACCEC President  
Mike St. Amand

## Rapport du président

En faisant la rétrospective de ma première année en tant que président que j'ai réalisé le nombre de gens qui se dévouent à l'éducation catholique dans notre pays. Ils le font sans réserve, et leur engagement et leur passion sont une inspiration.

Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le conseil d'administration pour son engagement envers l'éducation catholique et l'ACCEC. Le travail de tous les membres à la table du conseil et en comités illustre leurs talents et contribue à l'essor de notre organisation.

Cette année, nous avons accueilli deux nouveaux membres, Margaret Savidge, de la région de l'Atlantique, et Bob Schreder de l'OCSTA, avec qui nous avons déjà travaillé lors de notre rencontre d'octobre. Leur contribution a grandement été appréciée. À notre demande, tous les conseillers scolaires ont continué de sensibiliser leurs députés provinciaux à notre cause. Nous savons que leur voix est entendue et nous les remercions de cet appui inconditionnel.

Cette année fut pour moi bien remplie : l'automne dernier, je suis allé en Saskatchewan et en Alberta, et plus récemment, j'ai eu le plaisir d'assister au congrès de l'OCSTA à Toronto et à la conférence de l'AFOCSC à Timmins. Les ateliers auxquels j'ai assisté et les conférenciers que j'ai entendus étaient excellents. Félicitations à tous ceux qui organisent ces séances de développement professionnel et qui les rendent aussi valables et appréciées.

En avril, John Stunt et moi avons participé au congrès de la NCEA à Orlando. Le dévouement de ces enseignants catholiques pour leurs écoles et leurs élèves m'a vraiment impressionné. Ils ne profitent d'aucune subvention gouvernementale, et lorsque je leur ai mentionné que certaines de nos écoles en bénéficient, ils ont été étonnés et un peu envieux de notre situation. Nous sommes vraiment choyés, et il ne faut jamais tenir pour acquis ce privilège de l'éducation catholique.

Notre collecte de fonds Toonies for Tuition continue de venir en aide aux familles qui désirent une éducation catholique pour leurs enfants dans les provinces qui n'offrent pas de subvention. Merci à ceux qui appuient cette importante cause.

Cette année a aussi apporté des changements, dont le départ de notre directeur général, John Stunt. Au cours de sa carrière en tant qu'enseignant, administrateur scolaire, directeur général en Ontario puis au niveau national, son engagement envers l'éducation catholique a toujours été au premier plan. Il savait toujours ce qui était à faire et à qui s'adresser. Voilà un homme qui s'est consacré entièrement à la tâche et nous lui en sommes reconnaissants. Nous lui souhaitons une retraite bien méritée auprès de son épouse Marnie.

L'annonce du départ de John a enclenché le processus d'embauche d'un nouveau directeur général, et c'est avec joie que nous accueillons Julian Hanlon, de l'Ottawa Catholic School Board. Il entrera en fonction le 1er juillet.

Le récipiendaire du prix Higgins de cette année, Bonaventure Fagan, ne saurait être plus méritant pour ce prix prestigieux. Son engagement et son implication en éducation catholique sont incomparables. Je suis très fier de le compter parmi mes amis!

Nos collègues de St. John's ont mis beaucoup d'énergie à planifier ce merveilleux congrès, où l'on retrouve d'excellents conférenciers et des ateliers d'intérêt. Nous les remercions de leur excellent travail!

En cette fin d'année scolaire, j'espère que vous saurez garder dans vos prières nos élèves, leurs parents, leurs enseignantes et enseignants ainsi que tous les autres intervenants.

Que Dieu vous accompagne et protège vos familles au cours de cet été!

Respectueusement,

Mike St.Amand  
président, ACCEC

# Dr. Bon Fagan Named CCSTA's 2015 Higgins Award Winner

Dr. Bonaventure Fagan is humbled by being named CCSTA's Justice James Higgins Award recipient for 2015.

But his outstanding contributions to Catholic education, service and faith spurred numerous nominators for the award to extoll Fagan for being an exemplary person who has led the cause of Catholic education and Catholic community all through his life, working tirelessly during his career spanning 40 years.

Fagan says it's a great honour to be recognized, but admits he doesn't feel deserving. "In truth, such an award is not something one aspires to," he said. "I suspect if you were to ask every single winner of the Higgins Award, they would say that they did not feel they deserved it. I feel that way. So, I recognize the honour of the award and thank my nominators for their efforts in this regard and the CCSTA board for their decision."

Fagan said he continues to be involved in Catholic education because he feels it's the most wonderful opportunity for young people.

"Achieving to capability, striving for excellence, working with govern-

ment, being open to the good that society provides, self-identification with graduation outcomes – these, among other goals, serve in the mix of education. But they are only as meaningful as we live that unified commandment that Jesus spoke of: 'Love God with all your heart and all your mind and all your soul, and love your neighbour as yourself.'," he said.

Fagan is known for his respectful nature, combined with a characteristic gentle and empathetic manner. Quick to praise others for work well done, Fagan completed much integral work of his own during his career – and is still contributing.

Catholic education has indeed been a lifetime dedication for Fagan. After graduating from the Catholic system in the Placentia, N.L. area, Fagan went on to achieve his doctorate in education. He taught at the high school level in Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and also served as the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum for the Placentia/St. Mary's School Board in Newfoundland.

He is perhaps best known as a high-profile supporter of Catholic education while holding the posi-

tion of executive officer of the Catholic Education Council of Newfoundland. The Council challenged the government for the retention of denominational education in the province throughout the 1990s. When the movement began by government to take away constitutionally-protected rights of Roman Catholics to their Catholic schools, Fagan worked tirelessly and effectively to put forth clear defence arguments.

He is now recognized in the highest regard as an administrator and role model for teachers across Newfoundland and Labrador. Even in retirement, he continues to be actively involved in Catholic education, not only as a leader at the national level but also a founding member of the original board that re-opened St. Bonaventure's College as an independent Catholic School in the Jesuit tradition. He also served as Co-ordinator for Newfoundland, and Roman Catholic Independent Schools Association, Atlantic Region for 11 years. He still supports and advances the presence of St. Bonaventure's in the province.

Fagan also has ties to CCSTA, serving as a board member, executive member and later president of



Bon Fagan

the association.

In the same vein, Fagan is now chair for the 2015 CCSTA conference, being held in Newfoundland and Labrador this June. He said that receiving the award during his home conference will be a special event for him on numerous levels. "The fact that Justice James Higgins lived in Newfoundland Labrador is truly icing on the cake," Fagan said.

## Dr. Bon Fagan reçoit le prix Higgins 2015 de l'ACCEC

C'est avec modestie que Dr. Bonaventure Fagan accepte le prix Justice James Higgins 2015 de l'ACCEC.

Cependant, sa contribution exceptionnelle à l'éducation catholique, son dévouement et sa foi en ont incité plusieurs à proposer sa candidature et à vanter ses mérites en tant que personne exemplaire qui a plaidé toute sa vie la cause de l'éducation et de la communauté catholique, travaillant sans relâche pendant une carrière qui a duré 40 ans.

Pour M. Fagan, c'est un grand honneur de recevoir cette reconnaissance, mais il ne se considère pas aussi méritant. « En réalité, on n'aspire pas à obtenir un tel prix, » dit-il. « Je crois que si vous posiez la question à chaque récipiendaire du prix Higgins, chacun vous répondrait qu'il ne l'avait pas vraiment mérité. C'est ainsi que je me sens. Alors je reconnais le grand honneur que ce prix représente et je remercie ceux qui ont proposé ma candidature ainsi que le conseil d'administration de l'ACCEC qui l'a retenue. »

M. Fagan dit continuer à

s'impliquer en éducation catholique parce qu'il croit que c'est là la plus merveilleuse opportunité pour les jeunes.

« Réussir selon son potentiel, rechercher l'excellence, travailler avec le gouvernement, s'ouvrir aux aspects positifs de la société, s'identifier aux attentes du profil des finissantes et des finissants des écoles catholiques, voilà certes des objectifs positifs en éducation. Cependant, ils ne sont significatifs que si l'on vit ce commandement unifiant que nous a donné Jésus : « Il faut aimer Dieu de tout ton cœur, de toute son âme et de tout son être, et aimer son prochain comme soi-même, » nous a-t-il confié.

M. Fagan est reconnu pour sa nature respectueuse et son naturel empathique. Prompt à féliciter les autres pour un travail bien fait, il a lui-même fait plus que sa part au cours de sa carrière, et il continue encore à ce jour.

Il a en effet consacré sa vie à l'éducation catholique. Après sa graduation dans le système catholique de Placentia, à Terre-

Neuve-et-Labrador, il a poursuivi ses études jusqu'au doctorat en éducation. Il a enseigné au niveau secondaire à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard et à Terre-Neuve, et il a été surintendant adjoint au curriculum pour le conseil Placentia/St. Mary's School Board à Terre-Neuve.

On le connaît surtout pour avoir publiquement appuyé l'éducation catholique alors qu'il était cadre supérieur au Catholic Education Council of Newfoundland. Ce conseil avait contesté le gouvernement au sujet de l'abolition des écoles confessionnelles dans les années 90. Lorsque le gouvernement a commencé à retirer aux catholiques leurs droits constitutionnels, M. Fagan a travaillé sans relâche à faire valoir des arguments en leur faveur.

Il est maintenant hautement considéré en tant qu'administrateur scolaire et comme modèle pour les enseignants de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador. Même à la retraite, il est toujours actif dans le milieu de l'éducation catholique, non seulement comme leader au niveau national, mais aussi en tant que membre fondateur du conseil qui

a rouvert St. Bonaventure College dans la tradition jésuite, à titre d'école catholique indépendante. Il en a aussi été coordonnateur de la Roman Catholic Independent Schools Association pour Terre-Neuve et pour la région de l'Atlantique pendant 11 ans. Il continue de faire avancer la cause de St. Bonaventure dans la province.

M. Fagan a également servi à l'ACCEC en tant que membre du conseil d'administration, puis membre de l'exécutif et finalement dans le rôle de président.

Dans la même foulée, M. Fagan est présentement président du congrès de l'ACCEC 2015 qui aura lieu à Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador en juin prochain. Le fait de recevoir le prix Higgins pendant le congrès dans sa propre région ajoute une touche spéciale à l'événement. « Comme le juge James Higgins venait lui-même de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador, j'en suis encore plus fier, » dit-il.



## 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

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2014-2015

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## From the Office Desk...



It is hard to believe that my term as the executive director of CCSTA is coming to an end, and that this is my last column for our newsletter.

Five years ago I had just finished almost 10 years of intense work for the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association in Toronto, and I was looking forward to settling into retirement in our home in the Ottawa valley.

Providence, though, had a different plan for me, and through a combination of circumstances I was given the opportunity to serve the Catholic community across Canada for the next five years.

The work has been most rewarding, and has given me opportunities to meet dedicated trustees and administrators from across our great country. From St. John's to Victoria, from Yellowknife to Niagara, I have travelled our country and encountered the many dedicated women and men who keep our Catholic schools thriving in every area where Catholic schools exist. This is particularly evident in the jurisdictions that host our Annual General Meeting/Convention where the pride of the achievements of the students and the local schools is evident. Local trustees should be justifiably pleased with what their systems accomplish, often under less than perfect financial and political support.

Despite these struggles, the core mission of Catholic education - to pass on the good news of Jesus Christ - remains the key focus of the majority of trustees I encountered. In every jurisdiction, faith-based professional development is a staple component for trustees and staff alike.

Indeed, CCSTA itself is committed to providing quality opportunities for faith and professional development for trustees, as evidenced by the nature of the program at our last three National Conversation conferences and our AGM programs.

As I leave CCSTA, I am confident that the promotion of excellence in Catholic education throughout Canada will continue. Following in the footsteps of those visionary trustees from across Canada who saw the need for a national voice and created our national organization, our current CCSTA board will carry on their legacy and will continue to provide services and value to our membership. With current challenges to our rights to Catholic education, it is more important than ever to maintain a strong, unified national voice for Catholic education.

Thanks to all of you for giving me this opportunity to serve you and for your support and cooperation as I worked on your behalf. A special thank you to the past presidents and boards that I have worked with, and to Jean Montminy, our executive assistant, whose support, competence, and commitment were a huge asset not only for me, but our board and membership as well. I am most pleased that Julian Hanlon will replace me and benefit from Jean's talent.

When I started my career 48 years ago as a teacher at St. Joseph's School in the Niagara peninsula, little did I know where the spirit would lead me. That I should retire from CCSTA is indeed a blessing, and I am grateful to the Lord for calling me to my vocation as an educator, and for all the opportunities that I have experienced to grow both professionally and personally throughout that career.

A special thanks to my wife Marnie, and our four children for their inspiration, support and love over the years. I am one lucky guy.

God bless you all!

Yours in Catholic Education,

John Stunt  
Executive Director

## Nouvelles du bureau central

Il est difficile pour moi de constater que mon mandat de directeur général de l'ACCEC tire à sa fin et que c'est là ma dernière contribution à notre communiqué.

Il y a cinq ans, je complétais dix années de travail intensif pour l'Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association à Toronto, et j'anticipais vivre ma retraite dans notre demeure familiale dans la vallée de l'Outaouais.

Cependant, la Providence avait pour moi un autre dessein, et suite à un concours de circonstances, on m'a offert l'opportunité de servir la communauté catholique du Canada pendant les cinq années qui ont suivi.

Ce fut un travail gratifiant qui m'a fourni l'occasion de rencontrer partout au Canada des administrateurs et des conseillers scolaires engagés. J'ai parcouru le pays de St. John's à Victoria et de Yellowknife à Niagara, pour faire la rencontre de ces femmes et de ces hommes impliqués qui assurent la réussite de l'école catholique partout où elle est implantée. Je l'ai constaté de manière plus évidente dans les localités qui accueillent notre congrès/AGA, où la fierté des réalisations des élèves et des écoles de l'endroit était palpable. Les conseillers scolaires de ces régions sont en droit d'être fiers des succès de leurs systèmes scolaires, et ce dans des contextes financiers et avec des appuis politiques qui laissent parfois à désirer.

Malgré ces défis, la mission fondamentale de l'éducation catholique de partager la Bonne Nouvelle de Jésus Christ demeure l'objectif principal de la majorité des conseillers scolaires que j'ai rencontrés. Partout, l'apprentissage professionnel ancré dans la foi fait partie du quotidien de ces conseillers comme du personnel enseignant.

L'ACCEC elle-même se consacre à offrir à ses membres des occasions de développement professionnel et de la foi, comme le démontrent les programmes de nos congrès/AGA et nos trois derniers Échanges nationaux (L'Éducation catholique : un échange national).

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# Welcoming and bidding farewell to executive directors of CCSTA

In just a few weeks, the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association will have a new executive director at the helm.

Julian Hanlon was named as the next leader of the national organization earlier this spring, and will take over the post of executive director on July 1, 2015.

CCSTA president, Mike St. Amand, said the association is pleased to welcome Hanlon to the position. "Julian is the right person at the right time for our organization," he said. "We're fortunate to have the opportunity to tap into his depth and wealth of knowledge for Catholic education."

Current executive director, John Stunt, agreed with St. Amand, saying that Hanlon is a proven leader who is well known in Catholic education circles.

"We welcome Julian whole-heartedly and know that he will make the transition seamless, putting his enthusiasm and connections within the Catholic education sphere to good use with CCSTA," Stunt said.

In fact, Hanlon has served in many capacities throughout the spectrum of Catholic education: as a teacher, vice-principal, principal, supervisory officer and currently as the director of education for the Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB). He has been with the school board for 36 years and was recently awarded with the Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association Distinguished Leadership Award.

According to information provided by the OCSB, Hanlon advocates for board priorities that have guided the OCSB's goal to achieve success for every student, while also distinguishing himself as a valued contributor shaping the education technology direction for school boards.

Stunt, who is continuing on with the organization until the end of June, has been with CCSTA as its executive director since 2010. Stunt also brought practical experience to the position with CCSTA, serving as a teacher, school and board administrator, director of education, as well as executive director for the

Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association, before taking his current post.

During Stunt's term with CCSTA, he assisted the board in achieving balanced budgets through creating greater operating efficiencies while increasing revenue from outside sources and profits realized from the annual conference. Also, 2015 revenues increased for Toonies for Tuition by 20 per cent over 2014 due to a targeted campaign.

Receptions for politicians and staff on Parliament Hill, attendance at political events in Ottawa, the creation of a lobby kit and outreach to elected representatives highlight some of the government relations activities under Stunt's leadership term.

St. Amand noted that Stunt is an outstanding executive director, often flying under the radar, offering sound advice, but knowing when guidance is warranted. "He has worked hard for Catholic education and is so good at what he does; good at understanding and reading the situation. He has proven to be a committed leader and is a man of knowledge in things needed for this organization."

This year, CCSTA celebrates its 55th anniversary. Since its inception in 1960, CCSTA has had six executive directors, including John Middleweek (1960-1977), Fr. Patrick H. Fogarty (1977-1985), Dr. B.E. Nelligan (1985-1992), Dr. John Flynn (1992-2004), W. Gregory McNally (2004-2009) and John Stunt (2010-2015).



Julian Hanlon will begin his position as the CCSTA Executive Director next month.

## À l'ACCEC, un nouveau directeur général comble le vide laissé par un départ

D'ici quelques semaines à peine, un nouveau directeur général sera à la barre de l'Association canadienne des commissaires d'écoles catholiques.

Julian Hanlon a été choisi comme prochain leader de cette organisation nationale plus tôt ce printemps, et il entrera en fonction le 1er juillet 2015.

Mike St. Amand, directeur de l'ACCEC, dit que l'Association est heureuse de l'accueillir à ce titre. « Julian est la bonne personne au bon moment pour notre organisation, » dit-il. « Nous avons de la chance de pouvoir profiter de l'ampleur de ses connaissances en éducation catholique. »

Le directeur général actuel, John Stunt, confirme les dires de M. St. Amand, ajoutant que M. Hanlon est un leader accompli et bien connu du milieu de l'éducation catholique.

« Nous accueillons Julian à bras ouverts, et nous savons qu'il assurera pour l'ACCEC une transition sans heurts grâce à son enthousiasme et aux liens qu'il possède déjà dans le milieu éducatif catholique, » de dire M. Stunt.

En effet, M. Hanlon a occupé plusieurs postes dans sa carrière, étant tour à tour enseignant, directeur adjoint, directeur, officier de supervision et présentement, directeur de l'éducation pour l'Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB). Il travaille à ce conseil depuis 36 ans, et on lui a récemment décerné le prix Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association Distinguished Leadership Award.

Selon l'information fournie par le OCSB, M. Hanlon préconise l'atteinte de la réussite pour tous les élèves, un objectif important de l'OCSB. Il contribue également à orienter l'éducation de la technologie pour d'autres conseils.

M. Stunt est directeur de l'ACCEC depuis 2010, et terminera son mandat

à la fin juin. Lui aussi était venu à l'ACCEC fort d'une solide expérience pratique, ayant été enseignant, administrateur au niveau de l'école et du conseil, directeur de l'éducation et directeur général de l'Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association.

Durant son mandat à l'ACCEC, M. Stunt a aidé le conseil à équilibrer ses budgets en créant de meilleurs efficacités d'exploitation tout en augmentant les revenus de sources externes et les profits découlant des congrès annuels. De plus, en 2015, les revenus de Toonies for Tuition ont augmenté de 20% par rapport à 2014, et ce grâce à une campagne plus ciblée.

Sous le leadership de M. Stunt, les activités de sensibilisation au niveau politique se sont manifestées par des réceptions à l'intention des députés et des sénateurs, la création d'une trousse de lobbying et une campagne de sensibilisation des élus sur la Colline du parlement.

M. St. Amand note que M. Stunt est un excellent directeur général, travaillant souvent en coulisses, offrant de judicieux conseils au bon moment. « Il a travaillé fort pour l'éducation catholique, et il excelle dans ce qu'il fait. Il sait bien déceler les problématiques et les comprendre. En tant que leader, il s'est montré engagé et compétent dans les domaines requis par notre organisation. »

Cette année, l'ACCEC célèbre son 55ème anniversaire. Depuis sa création en 1960, six directeurs généraux se sont succédés à la tête de l'organisation : John Middleweek (1960-1977), le père Patrick H. Fogarty (1977-1985), le Dr B.E. Nelligan (1985-1992), le Dr John Flynn (1992-2004), W. Gregory McNally (2004-2009) et John Stunt (2010-2015).

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Au moment de quitter l'ACCEC, je sais que la promotion de l'excellence en éducation catholique au Canada se poursuivra. Notre conseil d'administration continuera d'offrir aux membres des services précieux, dans le giron des conseillers visionnaires de partout au Canada qui ont perçu le besoin de se donner une voix nationale et de fonder notre organisation. Dans le contexte actuel où l'on remet en question nos droits à l'éducation catholique, il est plus que jamais important de maintenir un discours fort et unifié en faveur de l'éducation catholique.

Merci à vous tous de m'avoir accordé le privilège de vous servir, et pour votre appui et votre coopération au cours de mon mandat. Je remercie spécialement les présidents sortants avec qui j'ai travaillé, ainsi que Jean Montminy, notre aide administrative, dont la compétence, l'engagement et l'appui ont été inestimables, non seulement pour moi, mais aussi pour notre conseil et nos membres. Nul doute que sa présence sera fort utile à mon successeur, Julian Hanlon.

Il y a 48 ans, lorsque j'ai débuté ma carrière d'enseignant à l'école St. Joseph dans la péninsule du Niagara, j'ignorais où l'Esprit allait me mener. Je suis heu-

reux de prendre ma retraite de l'ACCEC, et je suis reconnaissant de l'appel de Dieu à ma vocation d'éducateur ainsi que de toutes les occasions de croissance professionnelle et personnelle que ma carrière m'a offertes.

Je remercie spécialement mon épouse Marnie et nos quatre enfants pour leur appui, leur amour et l'inspiration qu'ils m'ont fournie au cours des ans. Je me considère un homme choyé.

Que Dieu vous accompagne!

Vôtre dans l'éducation catholique,



John Stunt  
Directeur général

# Provincial Reports

## British Columbia

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

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



### BC Ministry of Education

The Liberal Government under the leadership of Premier Christy Clarke fully supports “educational choice” in BC. The Ministry sees the “Face of Education” as both public and independent.

MLA, Mr. Simon Gibson, has replaced Marc Dalton as the Parliamentary Secretary for Independent Schools to the Minister of Education. Independent schools have benefited from Mr. Dalton’s support and we look forward to a positive working relationship with Mr. Gibson.

We expect to see minimal change in the Education Budget for 2015-16. The preliminary per student operating grant estimates are expected to be similar to this past year with only minor increases thus continuing to make it difficult to meet the demands of competitive salaries, acquiring new resources, technology needs, and facility maintenance and upgrades. On a positive note, we will see an increase the Special Education grants for the 2015-16 school year (Level 1 – up \$1100, Level 2 – up \$500, Level 3 – up \$300). Adult education will be increased \$135/student.

The Ministry of Education has allotted \$500,000 for public and independent schools for the purpose of Innovation Partnerships. Schools, through their associations, will be able to apply to access this grant.

The Ministry of Education’s BC Education Plan is moving forward as planned with the five key elements of personalized learning, flexibility and choice, quality teaching and learning, high standards, and learning empowered by technology.

### Legislation Affecting Independent Schools

Legislation Affecting Independent Schools includes:

- The new Society Act will likely receive Royal Assent by the Spring sitting. The new Act will affect all registered societies. Once passed current societies will have two years to register a transition application that complies with the new Act. The new Act gives more rights to members so it is recommended by the FISA BC that we need to consider who we give membership to (RE: AGM). It was also recommended that a general guidance document be developed by the FISA BC to support schools and/or school systems through this transition.

- Bill 11 (Education Statutes Amendment Act) sets a foundation that will provide for mandatory professional development, shared services and accountability. It includes such items as:

- Collaboration with the teaching profession to build a modern framework for professional development that places a stronger focus on student outcomes.
- Sharing of services and resources.
- Strengthening the accountability framework for student learning.
- Ministry data collection to ensure they are compliant with Privacy Acts.

- Property Tax Update – legislation is being tabled in the Spring sitting related to this issue (that all school property will be tax exempt). The Community Charter Act may be revised. The Act provided tax exemption for land that the building is on as well as the reasonable amount of land that the property is on to run their program (example: parking, sports fields, etc.). Municipalities will have the right to provide input on this legislation once it is presented and before it is passed. This is a positive piece of legislation for independent schools and we certainly hope that it gets passed.

The Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB) of the Ministry of Education has developed a draft Duty to Report Handbook that is currently being field tested. In addition, the TRB has asked the Justice Institute to offer three courses specifically related to schools: dispute resolution, class management including anger management and boundaries.

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

The Federation of Independent School Associations of BC, established in 1966, is an umbrella organization for all independent schools in BC. Approximately 5,500 educators from around the province will be gathering on February 4-5, 2016, for a convention at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Center in celebration of the FISA BC’s 50th anniversary.

The FISA BC’s mission is to enable parents to exercise the right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children and to promote the rightful place and responsibility of independent schools within a democratic and pluralistic society. 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 BC is dedicated to assisting independent schools in maintaining their independence while seeking fair treatment for them in legislative and financial terms. We are blessed to have a positive working

relationship with the Ministry of Education.

The FISA BC, an 18 member board, meets monthly to address topics common to all independent schools in the province. In addition various members give presentations, sit on a wide various provincial committees and dialogue with numerous organizations. The Catholic Independent Schools (CIS) group is one of the five associations within the FISA BC. Three CIS members are elected as representatives to the FISA BC Board and they ensure that the “Catholic” voice is heard. Doug Lauson, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Vancouver Archdiocese, has been president of the FISA BC since 2003.

Statistics published by the FISA BC indicate there are 350 independent schools in BC accounting for 80,080 students (13% of all BC students). This is an increase of 6.75% over last year. 27.3% of those students attend the 77 Catholic schools in the Province. Independent schools receive approximately 5.7% of the Education Budget.

This past year the FISA BC has:

- continued to lobby government to ensure that independent schools remain properly tax exempt (this has changed for a few schools in the province in recent years).
- continued working with the Ministry of Education to provide Level One and Two ERASE (Expect Respect and A Safe Education) Bullying training for independent schools.
- in addition to lobby property tax protection, they have continued to lobby the government on access to unused public property, access to low interest loans for capital initiatives involving student safety and including trades and technology initiatives.

### CISCBC (Catholic Independent Schools Committee of BC)

The Superintendents and a representative from each diocese in BC meet twice a year to work together on areas of common interest and concern. In addition, the five Bishops attended the first meeting of the year, held in November. The CISCBC is completing the final year of meeting the goals in their strategic planning document. This year we welcomed Art Therrien as the new superintendent for the Catholic Schools of the Nelson Diocese

The theme for Catholic Schools’ Week being held in January 2016 will be Catholic Schools: Proclaim Jesus with Loving Hearts.

After 41 years in BC Catholic Education, Doug Lauson, Superintendent of the Catholic Independent Schools of the Archdiocese of Vancouver (CISVA), will be retiring at the end of June of this year. We wish him all best as he pursues his retirement activities. We are hoping and expect that he will stay involved supporting all independent schools in BC. At the same time we welcome Dan Moric the new Superintendent for the CISVA.

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

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## Alberta/NWT

### Advocacy

The ACSTA provides ongoing education, advocacy and legal counsel to our member boards.

In the fall 2014 sitting of the Alberta Legislature, Bill 10: An Act to Amend the Alberta Bill of Rights to Protect our Children was introduced by the Progressive Conservative government. After two amendments, Bill 10 was put on hold until after government consultations with Albertans. Bill 10 was recommitted to Committee of the Whole on March 10, 2015 during which two further amendments were passed. The Bill requires all schools in Alberta, where requested by a student, to form a Gay Straight Alliance. The Bill proceeded to third reading where it passed, waiting Royal Assent. It will come into force on June 1, 2015.

In anticipation of this legislation, the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta developed the LIFE (Lived Inclusion for Everyone) Framework which provides a means to enact and establish structures and organizations within the schools to meet the goals of inclusivity and compassion. This document along with our Safe and Caring Learning Environments policy will ensure the support of our most vulnerable students.

In mid-December, the Education Act Regulatory Review Committee (RRC) released the regulations to Albertans and education stakeholders for comment, after extensive work by the Ministry of Education, Legislative Counsel and the Regulator Review Committee.

On February 13, ACSTA legal counsel, Kevin Feehan appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada to represent ACSTA who was an intervener in the *R. v Caron* appeal to support French language and culture rights (and by extension Catholic education rights) in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon. We do not expect the Supreme Court to render a decision till October.

### Faith Development

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

Last year, we reported on the Growing Forward: Catholic Education Symposium. The Symposium provided an opportunity for the community to survey the current landscape and, with the help of keynote speakers Dr. Reginald Bibby who shared pertinent demographic data with the assembly and Archbishop Michael Miller's reflection on the five marks of a genuine Catholic School, to chart a path forward. The wealth of data collected from the Symposium has now been collated into a report. The final report authored by Michael Marien, is a tool for boards, schools, parishes and Catholic organizations to use to continue the dialogue. The report can be found on the ACSTA website <http://www.acsta.ab.ca/resources>

The ACSTA hosted our 2014 AGM & Convention, The Transforming Power of Authentic Love held in Edmonton from November 14-16, 2014. We were pleased and excited to introduce Sr. Miriam James Heidland to Alberta as the keynote speaker at this year's Convention. Sister is a member of the Society of Our Lady of the Most



Audrey MacDonald received the Excellence in Catholic Education Award at the ACSTA's annual S.P.I.C.E. (Sharing Purpose in Catholic Education) and Blueprints Retreats in April (Photo: Twitter)

Holy Trinity and through her presentations Sister Miriam shared her remarkable conversion story and love of God through the power of relationships.

A silent auction to support the Toonies for Tuition program was held at the Convention. A total of \$5,591 was forwarded to the CCSTA Endowment fund for this important endeavor.

We also recently hosted the 2015 SPICE (April 23-26) and Blueprints (April 28-May1) Retreats in Kananaskis, Alberta. SPICE (focus is on classroom teachers and staff) and Blueprints (focused on administrators and Catholic education leaders) are the ACSTA's preeminent faith formation and community building events. This year, both retreats featured keynote speaker, Mike Patin who spoke on the topic of sowing the seeds of faith.

The ACSTA, together with members of Religious Education Network (REN) and working with Alberta Education, in cooperation with the Alberta Bishops, have completed a rewriting of the Alberta Catholic high school religious education curriculums that has been approved for use in Alberta. The Alberta Bishops have joined the Bishops from Saskatchewan and Ontario in the development of the new elementary religious education curriculums which will be rolled out starting in September and continuing over the next four years.

ACSTA, in partnership with Development & Peace, will prepare classroom-ready resources based on themes and topics from the Alberta curriculum and designed to assist teachers in educating and forming students about the gospel call for justice.

### Communications

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

This year, ACSTA hired Abraxas Public Affairs to devise a custom-built communications plan for ACSTA's internal execution. The plan will consist of a coordinated set of strategies devised to capitalize on communications opportunities; will be developed with the aim of providing ACSTA with

the framework necessary to establishing long-term effective communications; and will be comprehensive and detailed.

### Governance

On November 15 and 16, 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.

The ACSTA adopted a new mission statement at the AGM. As a result of this, the Board of Directors is in the process of reviewing its other supporting principles.

At their January 30 meeting the ACSTA Board of Directors unanimously accepted the Catholic Education Association of Yukon (CEAY) as members of ACSTA.

In March of this year, Dr. Garry Andrews assisted the ACSTA Board of Directors by facilitating the evaluations of Executive Director Dean Sarnecki and a self-evaluation of the board. At the May 28 ACSTA Board of Directors' Retreat, Dr. Andrews facilitated the board through a comprehensive strategic plan revision process.

The ACSTA Governance Committee has embarked on a comprehensive bylaw review and provided recommendations to the Board of Directors. It is anticipated that the revised bylaw package will be submitted to our 2015 AGM for consideration by the assembly.

## Saskatchewan

### Theodore Court Case Update

Exams for discovery have been completed and expert evidence was obtained for the pre-trial conference. In preparation for the pre-trial conference our lawyers have contacted Dr. Tom Groome and Archbishop Daniel Bohan from the Archdiocese of Regina, to serve as additional expert witnesses for the upcoming trial.

The pre-trial conference took place on Friday,

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February 6, 2015 in Regina. The second part of the pre-trial conference took place via conference call on March 27.

Five weeks have been set aside for the trial which is scheduled to begin on November 9, 2015 in Yorkton.

Our lawyers and Ministry lawyers have submitted applications challenging the standing of the plaintiffs. The trial judge will deal with these applications on May 29, 2015 in Yorkton. The plaintiffs have also requested the court to allow an Amended Amended Amended Statement of Claim which includes some significant changes. Both the Ministry lawyers and our lawyers are challenging the proposed amendments.

A hearing was convened to deal with the application for approval of the Amended Amended Amended Statement of Claim on April 27 in Saskatoon. The judge has reserved his judgement and we expect to receive his ruling not later than May 8, 2015.

Depending on the outcome of the proceedings outlined above, we may not be going to trial as scheduled in November.

## SCSBA Catholic Education Symposium

The SCSBA hosted a very successful Catholic Education Symposium on April 24/25, 2015 at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel in Saskatoon.

Most Reverend Michael Miller, Archbishop of Vancouver and Dr. Reginald Bibby, from the University of Lethbridge served as keynote speakers for the event. Mr. Gilbert Chevrier has been contracted to provide a report and summary of the group discussions to be completed by September 30, 2015.

## SCSBA AGM and Annual Convention

The SCSBA AGM and Annual Convention has been set for October 23-25, 2015 in Swift Current, and registrations forms will be distributed within the next few weeks.

## Faith In Our Students Campaign Update

Effective September 1, 2014 Deacon Joe Lang from Regina Catholic Schools has been hired as our part-time Communications Coordinator to manage this campaign.

This campaign is targeted at the following groups:

- Catholic School Division staffs, School Community Councils and parents
- Catholic School Boards for advocacy work with groups such as MLA's

This campaign will complement the SCSBA global communication plan. We have developed a new logo for this campaign which was presented at the January Board of Director's Meeting.

We have completed three posters for this campaign. The posters have three images signifying the tag line Achieving, Believing and Serving and incorporating the new logo.

Electronic versions have been sent to each school division to reproduce as needed. We unveiled our new three minute promotional video at our Catholic Education Symposium on April 25, 2015. We have launched our new Liturgical Resource which will be linked to the SCSBA web-

site.

## K-8 Religious Education Program Development

The SCSBA has been working with the Ontario Catholic Bishops, the OCSTA, Saskatchewan and Alberta Catholic Bishops and the ACSTA in the development of a new Elementary Religious Education Program being produced by Pearson Canada.

The Grade 1 resource is now complete and at the printers. Grade Two will be completed in August of 2015.

Representatives from Pearson Canada met with the Education Committee on April 16 in Regina to review the program and discuss pricing options.

On May 7, 2015, Pearson Canada hosted a "Train the Trainer Workshop" for the new Grade 1 Resource. This workshop was coordinated through CECAS.

## Grades 9-12 Catholic Studies Curriculum Development

The Ministry of Education has agreed to fully fund the writing of a new High School Religion Program in both English and French. The SCSBA Reference Committee approved the hiring of Rob Schaan from Regina to do the writing for this new program to be seconded for the 2014/15 school year.

The program will be called Catholic Studies 10/20/30 rather than Religious Studies 10/20/30.

We anticipate Grades 10-12 to be completed in draft form by June 2015.

Work has been halted on the Grade 9 Program and the SCSBA will contract Mr. Rob Schaan to complete the Grade Nine Program in Semester One in the 2015/16 school year.

An implementation plan for the new program will be developed by June 2015.

## Transgendered Resource Development Committee

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

The SCSBA hosted two seminars; Friday, March 20, 2015 in Regina and Tuesday, March 24, 2015, in Saskatoon with approximately 140 participants. The seminar objectives were as follows:

- To provide an overview of Catholic Church teachings in this area.
- To provide an awareness of the issues and challenges that transgender students encounter in our schools and in society in general.
- To create an awareness and understanding of the pastoral issues in supporting transgender students.
- To update participants of the proposed support document to be developed for use in all Catholic schools.

## Sister's Legacy Committee Update

The SCSBA is part of a provincial Sister's Legacy Committee which is in the process of finalizing plans for a major recognition project recognizing the tremendous contributions of the Catholic Sisters in our province to Catholic

Education, Health Care and Social Services.

The committee has completed a very successful fund raising campaign and funds for the project have been secured. The committee has finalized a site for the monument in Wascana Park in Regina.

Work is progressing well on the creation of a video to celebrate the contributions of the Sisters. The video will be launched at the banquet on October 1, 2015 in Regina.

The committee has finalized the date of October 1, 2015 for the unveiling ceremony, Eucharistic Liturgy and banquet in Regina.

## Manitoba

### Enrollment

As of September 30, 2014, Manitoba's Catholic schools reported to Government an enrollment of 5,079 students (K-12), which was comprised of 3,439 in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, 1,434 in the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface, and 206 in the Archeparchy of Winnipeg. 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. We are pleased that our numbers have remained strong even as our tuitions continue to increase as a reflection of increased operating costs.

Catholic Schools do not receive capital funding in Manitoba, which puts an additional strain on school communities to fundraise in order to maintain buildings. This also prevents them from expanding when there is increased demand. Many of our schools have enrollment waiting lists. There have not been any new Catholic schools 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. Fundraising has also been required to purchase new computers and smart boards so they can continue to incorporate technology into the curriculum. St. Peter's Parish is currently exploring the possibility of building a new K-8 school in the growing northwest quadrant of the city. The Jesuits are also exploring the possibility of opening a Nativity school to serve the students of the inner city.

### The Make-Up

The central organization of Catholic Schools in Manitoba is under the direction of the Bishops; there is no central school board. Each school has a separate board of directors. The Archdiocese of Winnipeg operates the Manitoba Catholic Schools Office through an agreement with the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface. The Director of Education is responsible directly to the Bishops. The Catholic Schools Office provides administrative and support services to all Catholic schools in the province. The Archbishop of Saint Boniface, Most

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Reverend Albert LeGatt, has an advisory council to assist him in his responsibilities and to keep him informed. The new Archbishop of Winnipeg, Most Reverend Richard Gagnon, has currently set up a committee to review the history of the central organization and supports provided to Catholic schools. The mandate of the committee is to look at ways that the current system might be improved within the current governance model and in the spirit of cooperation with the other dioceses.

## Catholicity of our Schools

The Manitoba Catholic Schools Office, with the support of the Bishops and school Pastors, is looking at different policies, practices, and programs to ensure the Catholicity of our schools. This includes hiring procedures as well as faith formation programs for new and existing staff. We believe the strength of our system is the staff that work and share the faith with our students on a daily basis. Staffs in our schools tend to be very dedicated to Catholic education and we have a high retention rate. Most receive salaries that are less than what they would be earning in the public system. We have not had any difficulties in recent years attracting high quality teachers and support staff.

## Sadlier Religion Program

The Bishops of Manitoba approved the Sadlier religion program We Believe at the nursery to Grade 8 level two years ago. Sadlier provided training to our teachers and the program is now in place in our schools. We have been very pleased with the program and the supports we have been given over the last two years and it seems to be better meeting the needs of our teachers and students. The program is faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church and gives the students a firm foundation for faith development. It is designed using the six tasks of Catechesis as outlined in the GDC. It has a spiral curriculum that allows the students to continue to build the key concepts of faith in a deeper and broader way as they grow more capable of understanding and living in discipleship. The three-step catechetical process has clear and concise lessons that encourage students to gather, believe, and respond and are well formatted for both new and experienced teachers. The program also has good technological resources including interactive lessons for smart boards. There are also family pages that connect what the child is learning at school with their families at home. The reality is that we have many families who no longer attend Mass on a regular basis and school has become the only place of faith formation. Our role in the evangelization of youth has taken on a greater importance as our society changes. We need to be able to adapt to meet the needs of our students if we wish them to develop a personal relationship with Jesus. That is why Catholic schools exist and must always be our primary focus.

## Celebrating 100 Years

The Archdiocese of Winnipeg is celebrating its centenary in 2015. The Archdiocese was created in 1915 from the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface, which was erected in 1847 and was the first diocese in western Canada. Catholic schools will be participating in various events throughout the year

including the Centennial Mass at the MTS Centre on May 3. A birthday celebration will held in the schools on December 4.

## Fr. Martin Bradbury

On April 7, 2015, Fr. Martin Bradbury, the former Director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface, passed away in Burlington. Fr. Martin was a big supporter of Catholic schools and the Manitoba Catholic Schools Office. He attended many CCSTA events. He was a good friend and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

## Ontario

### OCSTA AGM and Awards

On May 1, the Association celebrated its 85th Anniversary during the 2015 AGM and Conference in Toronto. Over 200 delegates attended to elect new regional representatives and to participate in the annual general meeting and conference.

### OCSTA Regional Directors - Election Results

Acclamations:

- Region 1: Colleen Landers, Northeastern CDSB
- Region 2: Paul Landry, Kenora CDSB
- Region 4: Beverley Eckensweiler, Bruce-Grey CDSB
- Region 5: Linda Ward, St. Clair CDSB
- Region 9: Michelle Griepsma, Peterborough Victoria Northumberland & Clarington CDSB
- Region 10: Todd Lalonde, CDSB of Eastern Ontario
- Region 11: Arlene Iantomasi, Halton CDSB
- Patrick Daly, Hamilton-Wentworth CDSB

Election:

- Region 3 (at large): Anne-Marie Fitzgerald, The Northwest CDSB

### Trustee Award of Merit

Each year the Association selects a trustee who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and service to Catholic education to receive the OCSTA Trustee Award of Merit. This year's award was presented posthumously to Wilf Garrah of the Algonquin Lakeshore Catholic District School Board for his 29 years of active service as an advocate for strong local schools and a powerful and articulate provincial voice for Catholic education.

### Special Award

OCSTA also acknowledges the commitment and contribution of individuals other than trustees who have provided outstanding leadership and support to strengthen Catholic education in this province. This year this "Special Award" was presented to Fr. Patrick Fitzpatrick, a veteran educator with the Toronto Catholic and Dufferin-Peel District School Boards and OCSTA's much revered and loved Chaplain.

### 25-Year Service Award

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

- Marino Gazzola, Wellington Catholic District School Board
- Bob Schreder, Renfrew Catholic District School Board
- Mario Pascucci, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
- Anna Maria Abbruscato, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

### Catholic Education Week

OCSTA's annual Catholic Education Week (CEW) happened May 3-8. Last year Catholic student trustees introduced the province-wide Mass as a feature of CEW and this year students have launched the first ever Ontario Catholic Student Youth Day (May 7 – the same day as this year's province-wide Mass).

CEW materials for schools include two school resource kits containing classroom activities, prayers reflections – one for the elementary level and the other for the secondary level. All are invited to visit the Catholic Education Week page on the OCSTA website to download this material.

### Province-wide Social Justice Initiatives

Also new this year for Catholic Education Week, is Social Justice Activity Guide created to help secondary school students prepare in advance for the social justice activities they've been asked to facilitate as part of this year's activities.



Catholic Board Council Student Trustees: President, Joe McLeod (l.), and Vice President, Quinn Scarlett, helped organized the first ever Ontario Catholic Student Youth Day (OCSYD).

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# Provincial Reports

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## AFOCSC

### Relations de travail - Négociations

Le dossier des relations de travail demeure une grande priorité pour l'AFOCSC depuis l'été 2014. Grâce au financement du gouvernement provincial qui a reconnu les besoins financiers pour mener à terme cette ronde de négociations, nous avons pu augmenter notre équipe qui inclut Mme Véronique-Anne Towner-Sarault, directrice des relations de travail, Mme Claire Riley conseillère en relations de travail à temps partiel et Mlle Christelle Mulombo, adjointe administrative.

De plus, nous avons récemment embauché madame Helen Vigneault à titre de responsable des communications. Ces additions viennent appuyer le directeur général Benoît Mercier et Marguerite Patrick-Tranchau, secrétaire exécutive.

### Formation provinciale des conseillères et conseillers scolaires

Les 15 et 16 janvier dernier a eu lieu une session de formation provinciale pour les conseillères et conseillers scolaires qui entament leur mandat suite aux élections qui ont eu lieu en octobre dernier. Plus de 60 membres de l'AFOCSC ont participé à ces deux journées de formation. Les membres de l'Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (OCSTA) ont aussi participé à cette session. C'est la première fois qu'une formation bilingue de ce genre a eu lieu.

La session de formation du 15 janvier a été organisée par le ministère de l'Éducation. Les thèmes suivants ont été exploités :

- Atteindre l'excellence : une vision renouvelée de l'éducation en Ontario- discours de la ministre
- Réaliser la vision : rôles et responsabilité des conseillères et conseillers scolaires
- Faire de liens entre la nouvelle vision de l'éducation en Ontario et les plans stratégiques des conseils scolaires
- Aligner les ressources avec les priorités : planification budgétaire
- Santé et bien-être des élèves

La session du 16 janvier a été organisée par l'AFOCSC. Encore une fois, plus de 60 conseillères et conseillers scolaires provenant de nos huit conseils membres ont participé à cette session. Lors de cette formation, les conseillères et conseillers scolaires ont participé à des sessions fort intéressantes en lien avec leurs rôles et responsabilités. Les thèmes abordés : enjeux de l'éducation catholique en langue française, rôles d'une conseillère ou d'un conseiller scolaire, gouvernance efficace. Pour clore la journée un directeur de l'éducation, un élève de 9e année et un parent ont participé au panel de discussion ayant pour thème l'Éducation catholique en langue française : C'est un plus.

### Réunion avec les évêques francophones - 12 mars 2015

Le Cardinal Collins nous a fait part de ses inquiétudes par rapport à la sortie du nouveau

curriculum d'éducation physique et santé. Selon le Cardinal, il est primordial de fournir aux enseignants et enseignantes œuvrant dans les écoles catholiques les ressources et les formations adéquates. Il a insisté également sur le rôle des parents qui sont les premiers éducateurs de leurs enfants.

Il nous a dit que les deux documents de l'AÉCO qui traitent des personnes d'attraction de même sexe sont encore en révision. Sans en changer le contenu, on cherche à rendre le niveau de langage plus convivial et plus accessible aux personnes œuvrant en milieu scolaire catholique.

Les partenaires rassurent le Cardinal que le nouveau curriculum représente une nette amélioration par rapport à celui de 2010; qu'on développera des ressources qui seront diffusées dès septembre prochain pour aider à présenter les contenus du curriculum dans une perspective catholique; qu'il y aura des sessions de formation à cet effet et que tout cela sera communiqué clairement aux parents.

Les différents partenaires à la réunion avec les évêques ont présenté les rapports suivants :

### Rapport du COREC

Nouveau curriculum d'éducation physique et santé à l'élémentaire: Le MEO a lancé officiellement le curriculum d'éducation physique et santé. La mise en œuvre dans les écoles est prévue pour le mois de septembre 2015. Le MEO s'engage à appuyer financièrement l'élaboration/révision/traduction de ressources et la formation du personnel enseignant. Ceci est un bel exemple de collaboration entre les partenaires. Les responsabilités sont partagées entre l'AFOCSC (élaboration de messages clés), l'OPÉCO (liaison avec ICE), la table scolaire (élaboration de ressources et de séances de formation) et le CODEC (partage de nos ressources humaines) et le MEO (appui financier). D'ici septembre, notre objectif est de former le personnel et leur remettre les ressources nécessaires pour la mise en œuvre du curriculum dans une perspective catholique.

Cadre de référence de l'élève: Les outils complémentaires tels que le DVD et le document d'appui élaboré par la Table scolaire seront remis lors du Congrès annuel de l'AFOCSC en mai 2015.

Cadre de référence de l'enseignante ou de l'enseignant catholique

La table scolaire est à développer un profil de l'enseignant de l'école catholique de langue française en Ontario, et cela, en lien avec le cadre de référence de l'élève. Ce document servira de guide relativement à la formation professionnelle et personnelle du personnel enseignant œuvrant dans les écoles catholiques de langue française en Ontario. Nous serons en mesure de présenter une ébauche à l'automne 2015. Il est souhaité que l'élaboration de ce cadre pour les enseignantes et les enseignants puisse aussi par la suite s'appliquer à d'autres groupes d'employés de notre système. Le COREC déterminera la date et l'endroit du lancement officiel.

### Rapport du CODEC

Campagne « C'est un plus! »: En partenariat avec l'AFOCSC, le CODEC a lancé la campagne C'est un plus! via le réseau social « Facebook

». Ça s'est avéré un véritable succès. Un merci tout spécial au RACCO d'en avoir assuré la mise en œuvre.

### Rapport de l'AÉCO

Curriculum d'éducation physique et santé: Des professionnels catholiques de l'enseignement vont se concerter pour produire des outils qui aideront les enseignantes et les enseignants à faire en sorte que la matière enseignée dans nos classes soit conforme aux enseignements catholiques et convienne au contexte d'une salle de classe catholique. À cet effet, l'AÉCO a formé un comité épiscopal formé d'experts en théologie qui aura pour tâche de réviser et valider les contenus des nouvelles ressources.

### Rapport de l'AFOCSC

Visibilité provinciale et lobbying politique: Pour l'AFOCSC, il est important d'être visible sur la scène provinciale. Lors de ces rencontres, nous nous assurons d'informer les députés que le système d'éducation catholique en langue française est majoritaire, statistique qui est surprenante pour la vaste majorité des députés. Nous travaillons avec nos conseils membres afin d'assurer le plein rayonnement de notre système d'éducation, en appuyant nos membres dans le désir d'ouvrir de nouvelles écoles dans des régions non desservies.

L'AFOCSC est à développer une campagne d'action politique. Une offre de formation provinciale est prévue pour les conseils scolaires membres sur comment organiser des rencontres avec les députés provinciaux dans les 107 circonscriptions de la province. L'AFOCSC aimerait présenter le plan provincial de démarchage politique lors de son Assemblée générale annuelle qui se tiendra à Timmins le 3 mai prochain.

### Rapport de l'OPÉCO

Les points suivants ont été présentés aux partenaires :

1. Manuels en Éducation religieuse 1re à la 3e: Le projet de la refonte des manuels de 1ère à la 3e année en collaboration avec le CFORP tire à sa fin. C'est l'intention d'avoir un produit livrable d'ici le début janvier 2016. Comme ce sont des ressources qui répondent aux attentes du programme-cadre en enseignement religieux, le processus d'approbation de l'AÉCO se doit d'être respecté.

2. Projet du Portik: Les évêques francophones appuient le projet de formation intitulé « Être catholique dans un monde sécularisé ». Ce projet de formation, élaboré par le Père Pierre-Olivier Tremblay et son équipe pastorale appelée « le Portik », s'inscrit dans le cadre du projet de formation pour les personnes œuvrant en milieu scolaire catholique en Ontario. La table scolaire de l'OPÉCO a décidé d'investir financièrement dans l'élaboration de ce projet. Cette formation est présentement offerte dans les huit conseils scolaires catholiques de l'Ontario. Le Portik achèvera



Jean Lemay was re-elected as president at the AFOCSC AGM in Timmins in May.

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sa tournée très prochainement.

3. Ressource catholique - loi 13: Le comité qui avait pour tâche d'élaborer une ressource catholique pour appuyer la mise en œuvre de la loi sur les écoles tolérantes (loi 13) vient de terminer son travail. La ressource présente une approche pastorale. Elle traite de discrimination sous toutes ses formes, mais en accordant une attention particulière à l'homophobie.

## **Congrès 2017 de l'ACCEC dans la région du Centre-Sud (Niagara Falls)**

L'AFOCSC sera hôte du congrès 2017 de l'ACCEC, en collaboration avec le CSDCCS et le conseil anglophone catholique de la région de Niagara Falls. C'est la première fois que l'AFOCSC sera directement impliquée dans l'organisation de ce congrès annuel.

## **L'AFOCSC devient membre de la NCEA**

À sa réunion de mars le C.A. a adopté une résolution que l'AFOCSC adhère à la "National Catholic Education Association" pour une période d'un an après laquelle le directeur général doit soumettre un rapport au CA afin de déterminer si l'AFOCSC continuera à adhérer à cette organization.

## **AFOCSC**

### **Labour relations – Negotiations**

The labour relations file has been a top priority for AFOCSC since the summer of 2014. Thanks to support from the provincial government which recognized the financial needs required to successfully conduct and complete this round of negotiations, we have been able to add personnel which includes Véronique-Anne Towner-Sarault, head of labour relations, Claire Riley counselor in labour relations at part time and Christelle Mulombo, executive assistant.

In addition we have just recently hired Helen Vigneault who will be responsible for communications. These welcome staff members will ably support and assist our executive director Benoît Mercier and his executive secretary Marguerite Patrick-Tranchau.

### **Provincial training for trustees**

Last January 15 and 16, a provincial training session was organized by the Ministry of Education and AFOCSC for incoming trustees newly elected in October. More than 60 members of AFOCSC participated in both days. The Ministry session on the 15th saw both AFOCSC trustees and members of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association participate in a joint bilingual presentation. This was the first time for a bilingual training session of this type.

The Ministry session on the 15th covered the following topics:

- Achieving excellence; a renewed vision of education in Ontario- the Minister's address
- Realizing the vision: roles and responsibilities of trustees

- Establishing the links between the new vision of education in Ontario and boards' strategic plans
- Aligning resources and priorities: budgetary planning
- The health and well-being of students

The January session organized by AFOCSC gathered 60 trustees from the eight member boards. The themes developed were: the challenges of French Catholic education; roles of French Catholic trustees; efficient governance. A panel composed of a director of education, a Grade 9 student and a parent discussed the topic, Catholic French education: It's a plus!, to close the day in an appropriate fashion.

### **Meeting with the francophone bishops – March 12, 2015**

Cardinal Collins attended this meeting and shared his concerns relative to the announcement of the new health and physical education curriculum Gr. 1 to 8. According to the Cardinal, it is important to provide teachers working in Catholic schools the proper resources and training. He also insisted on the role of parents, the primary teachers of their children.

Cardinal Collins mentioned that the two documents being prepared by the Assembly of Catholic bishops of Ontario dealing with same sex attraction are still in the revision stage. Without changing the contents, the intent is to make the language more appropriate and accessible to people working in the Catholic school milieu.

The francophone partners around the table assured the cardinal that the new curriculum represents a net improvement over the 2010 version; and resources will be developed to be available for September 2015 to help teachers in presenting the curriculum with a Catholic perspective; and that there will be training sessions for teachers. All this will be clearly communicated and explained to parents.

The different partners at the meeting with the bishops presented their reports as follows:

### **COREC report (Orientation Committee for Catholic French language education)**

New health and physical education curriculum: The Ministry officially launched the health and physical education curriculum. The implementation in schools is set for September 2015. The Ministry has committed to financially support the development/revision/translation of resources and the training of the teaching staff. This represents a fine example of collaboration among the partners who share responsibilities: AFOCSC (developing key messages), OPÉCO (liaising with ICE), the school sector (developing resources and training sessions) and the CODEC (directors of education) for the sharing of human resources as well as the Ministry (financial support). Between now and September the aim is to train the personnel and give them the necessary resources for the implementation of the new curriculum in a truly catholic perspective.

### **Frame of reference for the Catholic student**

The accompanying materials such as a DVD and the support document developed by the

school sector was presented during AFOCSC's AGM in May 2015.

### **Frame of reference for the Catholic teacher**

As an important partner of COREC (Engl. tr. Orientation committee for catholic French language education), AFOCSC asked for the creation of a frame of reference for the Catholic teacher in our system. As this subject is part of our strategic plan, COREC accepted to pursue this initiative all the while basing the eventual document on the one developed for the French Catholic high school student. It is the desire that this frame of reference be also the basis for a similar one applicable to other employee groups in our system. COREC will determine when and where the official launch will occur.

### **CODEC report (the directors of education)**

"It's a plus!" campaign: In partnership with AFOCSC, CODEC launched the campaign "It's a plus!" through Facebook. It was a veritable success. A very special thank you to the communications specialists of our boards (RACCO) for having put this together. A new revised campaign is being developed.

### **ACBO report (Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario)**

Health and physical education curriculum: Catholic professionals in education will gather to produce resources to aid teachers so that the subject content presented in our classrooms will conform to the context of the catholic classroom. In this regard, AECO has formed an Episcopal committee of theological experts whose task will be to revise and validate the content of all new resources.

### **AFOCSC report**

Provincial visibility and political activities: It is of utmost importance for AFOCSC to be visible on the provincial scene. We work with our member boards to help the expansion of our school system.

AFOCSC is developing a political action strategy. Provincial training is planned for the member boards in order to better prepare them in their meetings with provincial MPP's in the 107 ridings of the province. The plan was to be presented to the trustee members at AFOCSC's Annual general meeting in Timmins on May 3.

### **OPÉCO report (Provincial office for Catholic education in Ontario)**

The following topics were presented to the partners:

1. Religious education manuals Gr. 1 to 3: The revision project of the Gr.1 to 3 manuals in collaboration with CFORP (Franco-Ontarian centre for educational resources) is nearing completion. The intent is to have these ready by the beginning of January 2016. As these are resources that correspond to the objectives of the framework programme in religious instruction, the approval process of the Assembly of Catholic bishops of Ontario will have to be respected.

2. Portik project: The francophone bishops support the training project titled "Being

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Catholic in a secularized world". This training program created by Father Pierre-Olivier Tremblay and his pastoral team "le Portik" is part of the training program for personnel working in a Catholic school environment. The educational sector of OPÉCO decided to financially support the preparation of the project. The training is currently offered in all eight Catholic member boards in Ontario and should complete its tour soon.

3. Catholic resources: The committee responsible for preparing a Catholic resource for the implementation of Bill 13 Accepting schools Act has completed its work. The resource presents a pastoral approach to the issue of discrimination in all its forms while paying special attention to the topic of homophobia.

### CCSTA's 2017 AGM in the Niagara area

AFOCSC will collaborate with the Niagara area English Catholic board to co-host CCSTA's 2017 AGM and convention. This is the first time that AFOCSC will be directly involved in the organization of this annual event.

### AFOCSC becomes a member of NCEA

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

## RCISA, AR

Independent and/or private schools in Atlantic Canada receive no funding from their provincial governments. Indeed, with Prince Edward Island

as the exception, such schools do not even qualify for the free or subsidized textbooks provided to public schools. However, given the small number of schools and the provincial nature of education in the country, there is no overall effort made to address this issue. From time to time, however, discussions about this topic are held at the local school board level. As well, parents have sometimes become more directly involved to see if the situation can be remedied. Such was the case this spring in NL when through the efforts of parents and their schools - Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Corner Brook and St. Bonaventure's College in St. John's - a petition was presented on March 17 in the NL House of Assembly seeking inclusion of their children in the free textbook policy of the government's Department of Education. As in previous applications, and not unexpectedly, the petition was not successful. The Minister of Education took the position that schools covered under the "Private Schools" provisions of the "Education Act" do not qualify for funding as may be provided to public schools. Nevertheless, the effort of the parents and schools was worthwhile as all understand that change to this unjust position of government will come slowly through persistent efforts.

### Enrollment and Outreach

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



The RCISA, AR will host the CCSTA AGM this year in St. John's, Newfoundland at St. Bonaventure College.

paign, the projected 2015-16 enrollment is positive for all schools.

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

## The 2016 CCSTA AGM is set for Yellowknife!

Now this is going to be an AGM you definitely don't want to miss! Taking place in Yellowknife, NWT, the 2016 CCSTA AGM will welcome delegates to an area of our country that many of us have not yet explored. The 2016 AGM will showcase Yellowknife's vast cultural heritage and demonstrate its active Catholic School Community. Come join us in Yellowknife next year!



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

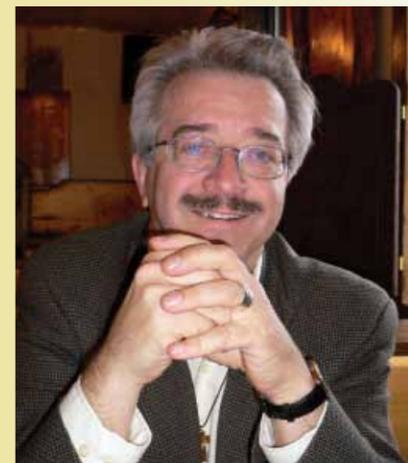
# Chaplain's Corner

## A Surprising Announcement from Pope Francis

On April 11th of this year, Pope Francis announced a Holy Year of Mercy beginning next December the 8th. In what ways will the Catholic Schools of Canada participate in this Extraordinary Jubilee Year? We will certainly support the diocesan activities. Could we not however initiate some projects that would be specific to our schools? Recently, I discussed this initiative of Pope Francis with Archbishop Paul-André Durocher, archbishop of Gatineau, and he explained to me how he wishes that the artistic community of his diocese could get involved in this project. I then asked myself, "Why not involve the numerous artists of our Catholic schools in the Holy Year of Mercy?"

What if across Canada, in all Catholic schools, murals portraying the various faces of mercy could be set up. They could be made of paintings, photos, poems, prayers, etc. These could be the work of students, school personnel, parents, volunteers, etc. Could we not expose these murals at our next AGM in Yellowknife?

Mercy is an essential element of our Christian faith. Let us be proactive and develop a multitude of projects that affirm publically this Gospel value. We would thus walk in the footsteps of Jesus and collaborate with Pope Francis on this much-desired project.



Fr. Rémi Lessard  
CCSTA Chaplain/Aumônier

## Une annonce surprenante du pape

Le 11 avril dernier, le pape François annonçait une Année sainte de la Miséricorde qui débutera le 8 décembre 2015. De quelle façon allons-nous participer à ce Jubilé extraordinaire dans nos écoles catholiques du Canada ? Nous participerons certainement aux activités diocésaines, mais peut-on, de notre propre chef, organiser un projet ou l'autre spécifique aux écoles pour soutenir cet élan de l'Église? Je discutais récemment de ce sujet avec Mgr Paul-André Durocher, archevêque de Gatineau, qui espérait s'adjoindre la participation des artistes de son diocèse dans la célébration de cette année jubilaire. Je me suis alors dit « Et pourquoi ne pas faire appel aux nombreux artistes de nos écoles catholiques dans cette initiative du pape ? »

Si nous avons par exemple, dans toutes les écoles catholiques du Canada, des murales qui démontreraient les multiples visages de la miséricorde, elles pourraient être façonnées avec des dessins, des photos, des poèmes, des prières, etc. Celles-ci pourraient être l'œuvre des élèves, du personnel scolaire, des parents, des bénévoles, etc. Ne pourrions-nous pas faire une exposition de ces murales à l'AGA de notre association à Yellowknife l'an prochain ?

La miséricorde est un élément essentiel de la foi chrétienne. Soyons proactifs et développons de multiples projets pour affirmer publiquement cette valeur évangélique. Nous marcherons ainsi dans les pas de Jésus et nous collaborerons au projet tant désiré par le Pape François.

**Please mark these dates on  
your planning calendar:**

• June 9-11, 2016  
**CCSTA AGM/Convention  
Yellowknife, NWT**

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

•2018  
**Currently accepting applications  
to host the 2018 AGM**



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