

Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association

Association canadienne des commissaires d'écoles catholiques



June/Juin 2013

CCSTA NEWSLETTER/COMMUNIQUÉ DE L'ACCEC

www.ccsta.ca

Winnipeg Welcomes You!

Winnipeg brings multicultural flavour to AGM/Winnipeg donne une saveur multiculturelle à l'AGA

From Ukrainian dancing to First Nations drumming, the CCSTA AGM will showcase Manitoba and Winnipeg's diverse cultural background, ultimately bridging the city's and convention motto into the weekend events: Embrace the Spirit.

"We want all our delegates to fully experience our theme. This means the Holy Spirit but also the spirit of our city," says Robert Praznik, Director of Education for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg Catholic Schools. "That's why we're showcasing all the cultures that make up our city and our province."

Winnipeg is no stranger to the CCSTA AGM. In fact, the city is the only location that has hosted the annual gathering five times over CCSTA's five-decade history.

When delegates arrive in Winnipeg for the AGM in early June, they'll be infused with a range of cultural offerings. To show off each cultural facet, the organizing committee has worked hard to ensure delegates will use all five senses throughout the weekend.

"From sights to sounds to tastes, we're going to offer the entire package," says Praznik.

The event kicks off Thursday, June 6 with the opening ceremonies. First Nations drummers will welcome everyone while showcasing the spirit of Manitoba through the symbolism of earth, water and fire. Following opening remarks from Archbishop Weisgerber, keynote speaker Fr. Stefano Penna of Edmonton will take the podium to speak on religious formation in 21st century schools. The evening will conclude with entertainment from the French Canadian folk ensemble, CaClaque, followed by a reception featuring Manitoba bison. The evening will conclude in the hospitality room, where delegates will experience a Manitoba traditional Social-complete with a live band and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



The Winnipeg AGM planning committee is ready to showcase Manitoba's hospitality. The committee includes (from left to right) Gail Gel, Jean Gilbert, Margaret Kingdon, Robert Praznik, Nola Praznik, Teresita Chiarella, Maria Coutu. The AGM will incorporate the province's multiculturalism and delegates will have the chance to explore all the city has to offer.

Le comité organisateur de l'AGA de Winnipeg met en évidence l'hospitalité de Winnipeg. Sur la photo, de gauche à droite : Gail Gel, Jean Gilbert, Margaret Kingdon, Robert Praznik, Nola Praznik, Teresita Chiarella, Maria Coutu. L'AGA incorpore des aspects multiculturels de la province et les participants pourront profiter de tout ce que la ville a à offrir.

Des danses ukrainiennes aux tambours autochtones, le congrès AGA de l'ACCEC mettra en valeur la diversité culturelle de Winnipeg et du Manitoba, pour relier les activités de ce weekend à la devise de la ville et du congrès, « Vivez de l'Esprit ».

« Nous voulons que les participants vivent notre thème. Nous faisons référence à l'Esprit Saint, mais aussi à l'esprit de notre ville, » dit Robert Praznik, directeur de l'éducation pour les Écoles catholiques de l'archidiocèse de Winnipeg.

« Voilà pourquoi nous mettons en évidence toutes les cultures qui composent notre ville et notre province. »

Ce n'est pas la première fois que Winnipeg accueille le congrès A G A de l'ACCEC. De fait, dans l'histoire de l'ACCEC, elle est la seule ville qui ait été hôtesse à cinq reprises.

À leur arrivée à Winnipeg au début juin, les participants auront à leur portée une variété d'éléments culturels. Le comité organisateur s'est efforcé de faire appel aux cinq sens afin de bien mettre en valeur tout au cours du weekend une variété d'éléments culturels.

« Nous présenterons des saveurs, des expériences visuelles et auditives, tout y sera, » dit M. Praznik.

Les activités débutent avec la cérémonie d'ouverture, le 6 juin. Les tambours des Premières Nations accueilleront les gens en présentant l'esprit du Manitoba sous les symboles de la terre, du feu et de l'eau.

Après quelques mots de bienvenue de Mgr l'archevêque Weisberger, le Père Stefano Penna d'Edmonton, conférencier invité, prendra le micro pour nous entretenir de la formation religieuse dans les écoles du XXIe siècle. La soirée se poursuivra avec la musique d'un ensemble folklorique canadien-français, Ça Claque, et un goûter comprenant du bison du Manitoba. Pour finir, les participants se rassembleront dans la grande salle pour

LA SUITE À LA PAGE 3

Don't forget!

Early bird registration for the CCSTA Catholic Education: A National Conversation Conference is open. Receive \$100 off your registration fee if you register by June 30, 2013! Learn more about the conference at alcdsb.on.ca/ccsta_conference_2013.

President's Message

Catholic education continues to be a going concern in Canada. CCSTA represents Catholic schools in fully funded provinces, partially funded provinces and provinces where funding comes entirely from private sources. CCSTA is the vehicle through which we share our stories about Catholic education from across Canada. We advocate on behalf of Catholic education, where appropriate, at the national level.

Currently, I am involved in an interesting research project regarding constitutional denominational rights. I am struck by how pivotal the education question was in the very formation of this country and in the entry of Alberta and Saskatchewan into confederation. Catholic education was important then and continues to be so now. I am always impressed by the vigorous advocacy for Catholic constitutional rights by great early Canadians like Thomas D'Arcy McGee, Richard Scott, Archbishop Taché, and Father Lacombe. Minority rights are a key feature of Canadian Democracy. We are inspired to continue the cause.

Of course, since then, Catholic education has been a success story of educating many Canadians who have contributed to Canadian society in a variety of ways. The values promoted by a Catholic education are entirely in keeping with good democratic citizenship valued by all Canadians. Challenges to Catholic education continue but so do the opportunities. Catholic education continues to be a choice for many Canadians whether in fully funded, partially funded, or unfunded settings. Catholic education contributes positively to a civil, democratic society.

The new pope has brought renewed interest and hope for the Catholic Church. The drama of the events surrounding the election of the new pope had us all captivated and I, for one, am thrilled with the outcome. Pope Francis brings a fresh perspective representing a different part of the world and a focus on social justice. Social justice has always been a central part of the teachings of the church but this renewed focus is certainly something that has an impact on Catholic education. Catholic schools are particularly good at developing a consciousness in the young around the responsibility of looking after our fellow human beings. There are countless projects in Catholic schools across the country raising funds, building awareness, and creating connections with those who are less fortunate because that is part of our mission as Catholics.

CCSTA is very proud of one of these initiatives, Toonies for Tuition, which supports the Endowment Fund that provides financial assistance to families wishing to send children to Catholic schools in unfunded or partially funded provinces. The fund has been growing slowly and the demand is always much larger than we can support. You will recall that we approved the action for CCSTA to charge a modest administrative fee to help us grow the foundation. With the help of Lou Rocha we have embarked on a bold initiative to move our fundraising to a higher level. Please watch for information on these exciting new developments.

The CCSTA has continued its work through the winter and into the spring as we approach our annual convention and general meeting in June in Winnipeg. We conducted our winter committee meetings and Board of Directors meetings using teleconferencing. In those meetings we continued our planning for conferences, communications and the budget.

I was able to attend Conferences and AGM's in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario. I observed remarkable work to continue a vibrant Catholic Education system in Canada. I also attended Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Conference in Halifax. The conference was held in Sacred Heart School and I spent some time with leaders of Our Lady of Schools while there. Unfortunately, Our Lady of Schools will be closing its doors at the end of this year. It is a reminder to us of the struggles to maintain Catholic education in unfunded or partially funded locations. Along with Executive Director, John Stunt, I attended the National Catholic Education Association Conference in Houston. NCEA is the largest private, professional education association in the world. Founded in 1904, the association's membership represents more than 200,000 educators serving more than seven million students at all levels of Catholic education in the United States. I heard many impressive speakers and attended some moving liturgies. Two themes that struck me were how Catholic Schools engage an increasingly secular world and the impact of technology on Catholic Education. Many issues that face Catholic Schools in the United States face us here in Canada.

The planning continues for our third national conversation around Catholic education in October in Ottawa. With the election of a new pope and the continuing challenges and opportunities for Catholic education in Canada, this will be a wonderful opportunity to share our stories and build renewed determination to promote and protect Catholic education in Canada. We look forward to seeing many delegates from parishes, schools and communities at this important event.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Winnipeg in June and to others who are reading this newsletter, I thank you for your continued support. May God's blessings be with you!

Ted Paszek, CCSTA President

Message de la présidente

L'éducation catholique au Canada continue d'être le centre de nos préoccupations. L'ACCEC représente les écoles catholiques dans toutes les provinces, qu'elles soient entièrement, partiellement ou aucunement subventionnées. L'ACCEC nous permet aussi de partager les pratiques réussies en enseignement catholique partout au Canada. Nous faisons la promotion de l'éducation catholique au niveau national.

En ce moment, je fais partie d'un projet de recherche intéressant sur les droits confessionnels dans la constitution. Je suis stupéfié de l'importance de l'éducation dans la formation de notre pays et de son rôle dans l'insertion de l'Alberta et de la Saskatchewan dans la confédération. L'éducation catholique était importante alors, et elle l'est encore aujourd'hui. Je suis toujours inspiré par la vigueur avec laquelle certains grands Canadiens, tels que Thomas D'Arcy McGee, Richard Scott, l'archevêque Taché et le Père Lacombe, se sont portés à la défense de l'éducation catholique. Les droits des minorités sont au cœur de la démocratie canadienne. Cela nous encourage à continuer de s'impliquer pour la cause.

Naturellement, depuis ses débuts, l'éducation catholique a connu des succès, en formant de nombreux Canadiens qui ont contribué à la société canadienne de plusieurs façons. Les valeurs préconisées par l'éducation catholique sont parfaitement compatibles avec celles de notre citoyenneté démocratique, si chère à tous les Canadiens. Des défis guettent toujours l'éducation catholique, mais il y a aussi des opportunités. Elle continue d'être disponible pour de nombreux Canadiens, qu'elle soit entièrement, partiellement ou aucunement subventionnée. L'éducation catholique contribue de façon constructive à une société ordonnée et démocratique.

L'élection de notre nouveau pontife a ravivé l'intérêt et l'espoir dans l'Église catholique. La couverture médiatique consacrée à l'élection du pape nous a tous captivés, et pour ma part, je suis très heureux des résultats. Le pape François apporte une vision renouvelée qui reflète un intérêt pour la justice sociale et une réalité venant d'une autre partie du monde. La justice sociale a toujours fait partie des enseignements de l'Église, mais ce renouveau aura certainement un effet sur l'enseignement catholique. L'école catholique développe chez les jeunes la conscience des autres et le sens de la responsabilité de s'occuper de son prochain. Dans les écoles catholiques partout au pays, on ne compte plus les projets de collectes de fonds, de conscientisation et de rapprochements au profit de ceux qui sont moins fortunés, parce que cela fait partie de notre mission en tant que catholiques.

L'ACCEC est fière de l'une de ces initiatives, sa campagne Toonies for Tuition, qui alimente le Fonds de dotation. Ce fonds vient en aide aux familles qui veulent que leurs enfants fréquentent l'école catholique dans les provinces où elle n'est que partiellement ou aucunement subventionnée. Le fonds croît lentement, car la demande dépasse toujours largement les fonds disponibles. Vous vous souviendrez que nous avons décidé de percevoir un modeste frais administratif pour nous aider à consolider le fonds. Grâce à l'aide de Lou Rocha, nos efforts de collecte de fonds s'élèveront d'un cran. Soyez à l'affût des développements dans ce dossier.

À l'approche du printemps, l'ACCEC a poursuivi ses travaux, et notre congrès/AGA de juin, à Winnipeg, est à nos portes. Au cours de l'hiver, nos rencontres de comités et du conseil d'administration se sont déroulées par conférences téléphoniques. Nous avons poursuivi la planification des congrès, et discuté des questions de communications et de budget.

J'ai eu le privilège de participer aux congrès/AGA de nos associations de conseillers scolaires catholiques en Alberta, en Saskatchewan et en Ontario. J'ai pris connaissance du travail remarquable et dynamique qui se poursuit en éducation catholique au Canada. J'ai également participé au congrès Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Conference à Halifax, qui se déroulait à l'école Sacred Heart. À cette occasion, j'ai pu discuter avec les dirigeants de l'école Our Lady of Schools. On sait que cette école devra malheureusement cesser ses opérations à la fin de cette année scolaire. C'est pour nous un rappel de nos défis au maintien de la présence de l'enseignement catholique dans les endroits où les subventions font défaut. En compagnie de John Stunt, directeur général, j'ai assisté à la National Catholic Education Conference à Houston. La NCEA est la plus grande association éducative professionnelle privée au monde. Fondée en 1904, elle compte plus de 200 000 membres, des éducateurs qui oeuvrent auprès de plus de sept millions d'élèves et étudiants catholiques de tous niveaux aux États-Unis. Plusieurs des conférenciers étaient impressionnants et les liturgies, émouvantes. Les deux thèmes qui ont le plus retenu mon attention ont été la façon dont l'école catholique aborde un monde de plus en plus séculier et l'impact de la technologie en enseignement catholique. Nous retrouvons au Canada plusieurs des défis auxquels ils font face aux États-Unis.

Les préparatifs de notre troisième échange national sur l'éducation catholique, à Ottawa en octobre prochain, vont bon train. Dans le contexte de l'élection d'un nouveau pape, et compte tenu des défis et des opportunités qui se présentent en éducation catholique au Canada, ce congrès représente une occasion idéale pour partager nos succès et renforcer notre détermination à promouvoir et protéger l'éducation catholique au pays. Nous espérons rencontrer de nombreux délégués des paroisses, des écoles et des communautés à l'occasion de cet important événement.

Merci à tous pour votre appui. Dans l'espoir de vous rencontrer à Winnipeg en juin, je vous offre mes meilleurs vœux, et que la bénédiction de Dieu soit avec vous.

Ted Paszek, Président de l'ACCEC

Winnipeg Welcomes You!

FROM FRONT PAGE

a traditional late lunch.

Friday's agenda is packed with exciting activities, including the morning breakfast and keynote address from William Sadlier Dinger an American Catholic publisher from New York. Six different workshops will be offered in the morning and afternoon on a variety of topics. Companion tours will take place throughout the day, allowing partners to experience the city's offerings.

Friday evening's celebration dinner will take place at St. Mary's Academy and delegates will be privy to a range of talented entertainment featuring Polish, Irish, Indian, Nigerian and Ukrainian dancers and an Italian singer from the city's diverse ethnic mosaic.

"The audience will be blown away by Friday's performances," says Praznik. Food stations will allow everyone to enjoy tasty dishes from around the globe.

Saturday's opening keynote speaker, Dr. Sandra Kennedy of New Orleans, will address the convention on the topic of the ministry and vocation of the Catholic school teacher following the convention breakfast. The CCSTA business meeting will follow Dr. Kennedy's talk later that morning. Saturday afternoon will allow delegates to explore the city and rest up before what's expected to be an unforgettable evening.

St. Mary's Cathedral will host the Eucharistic Celebration at 5 p.m., followed by the Gala Banquet catered by the award-winning chefs of the Fort Garry Hotel. The Higgins Award will be handed out and the Toonies for Tuition Trophy winners will also be commended. Students from the Catholic Schools of Winnipeg will be performing throughout the convention.

Following years of planning, these three days will demonstrate just why Winnipeg is an experienced veteran when hosting CCSTA's AGM gatherings.

"Everyone always looks forward to the AGM and it is our hope that everyone will have a memorable experience and enjoy the city and culture that is responsible for the Spirit of Friendly Manitoba," says Praznik.

Winnipeg vous souhaite la bienvenue!

SUITE DE LA PREMIÈRE PAGE

un repas tardif, avec musiciens, une tradition manitobaine.

Le vendredi sera lui aussi chargé : petit déjeuner suivi de la conférence d'ouverture de M. William Sadlier Dinger, éditeur catholique américain en provenance de New York. Puis il y aura six différents ateliers au cours de la journée. Les participants pourront aussi participer à différentes visites pour s'imprégner de l'ambiance de la ville.

En soirée, le dîner de célébration aura lieu à la St. Mary's Academy. En vedette, on retrouvera des représentants de la mosaïque ethnique de la ville : danseurs polonais, irlandais, indiens, nigériens et ukrainiens ainsi qu'un chanteur italien.

« L'auditoire sera charmé par ce spectacle du vendredi, » dit M. Praznik. On pourra visiter différents stands mettant en vedette des mets de partout dans le monde.

Samedi matin, suite au petit déjeuner, le Dr Sandra Kennedy, de la Nouvelle-Orléans, nous parlera du ministère et de la vocation de l'enseignant catholique. Suivra la réunion de travail de l'ACCEC. En après-midi, les participants pourront explorer la ville et se reposer en anticipation de ce qui promet être une soirée mémorable.

À 17h, il y aura la célébration eucharistique à la cathédrale St. Mary, suivie du banquet de gala préparé par les chefs primés de l'hôtel Fort Garry. On remettra le prix Higgins et on rendra hommage aux gagnants du trophée Toonies for Tuition. Le congrès sera ponctué de différentes performances de la part des élèves des écoles catholiques de Winnipeg.

Suite à des années de planification pour le congrès AGA de l'ACCEC, ces trois jours de célébration sauront montrer pourquoi et comment Winnipeg est une organisatrice chevronnée.

« Nous avons toujours hâte à l'AGA, et nous espérons que chacun vivra une expérience mémorable tout en jouissant de cette ville et de cette culture qui sont à la base de l'esprit du Manitoba, » dit M. Praznik.

CCSTA delivers strong messages to MPs and Senators

CCSTA hand delivered a message to Members of Parliament (MPs) and Senators earlier this year, outlining just how important Catholic education is across Canada.

Working with a government relations firm, ENSight Canada, CCSTA crafted together three postcards describing how and why Catholic education has been an integral component to our society.

"We wanted to reach out and have MPs and Senators read about Catholic education and encourage them to learn more by visiting our website," explains CCSTA Executive Director John Stunt. "These are visually appealing documents that do the job at spreading our message."

Written in both English and French, these postcards were delivered directly to MPs' and Senators' Parliament Hill offices.


"I think this is an excellent way to spread the good word about Catholic education in Canada," says CCSTA President Ted Paszek.

L'ACCEC livre un message bien senti aux députés et aux sénateurs

L'ACCEC a transmis un message sur l'importance de l'éducation catholique au Canada à tous les députés et sénateurs. Avec l'aide d'Ensight Canada, une firme de relations publiques, l'ACCEC a élaboré trois correspondances décrivant comment et pourquoi l'éducation fait partie intégrante de notre société.

« Nous voulions que les députés et les sénateurs lisent à propos de l'éducation catholique et les inciter à consulter notre site Internet, » explique M. John Stunt, directeur général. « Nous sommes très heureux de ce qu'Ensight a mis sur pied pour nous. Ce sont des documents attrayants qui contribuent efficacement à faire passer notre message. »

Rédigés en français et en anglais, ces cartes ont été livrées en main propre aux bureaux des députés et aux sénateurs sur la Colline. « Quelle bonne façon de répandre la bonne nouvelle de l'éducation catholique au Canada, » dit M. Ted Paszek, président de l'ACCEC.



CANADA'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT

Canada's vibrant Catholic education system is not a duplicate of other school systems. While it adheres to government requirements, it does so from a Catholic perspective. The curriculum is enhanced by Gospel values. Teachers are professionally trained and are expected to serve as witnesses to the values lived out in our Catholic schools.

At the heart of Catholic education is the person of Jesus. Faith development is integral to every part of Catholic education, as students are called to respect the dignity of all human persons in a caring community. Through participation in the community and involvement with the parish, students are guided by the Gospel values, principles and standards that reach into every facet of school life. Countless families over the generations have chosen Catholic education for their children.

CELEBRATE CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN CANADA - A PROVEN SUCCESS FOR MORE THAN 170 YEARS.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN CANADA, PLEASE VISIT THE CANADIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION ONLINE AT: WWW.CCSTACA.CA

Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association
Association canadienne des commissaires d'écoles catholiques



Les écoles catholiques au Canada: l'histoire d'une réussite


Les écoles catholiques instruisent les élèves canadiens en matière de corps et d'esprit depuis 1841. Pendant plus de 170 ans, elles ont offert l'excellence en éducation, et ce, dans une culture pédagogique empreinte des valeurs évangéliques de Jésus-Christ. L'enseignement catholique a constitué la fondation sur laquelle des millions d'élèves ont développé leur plein potentiel spirituel, scolaire, physique et social.

Aujourd'hui, le système d'éducation catholique permet aux élèves d'atteindre des niveaux élevés de rendement scolaire. De plus, les diplômés appréhendent l'importance de la vie spirituelle et des valeurs de la foi catholique - notamment la collectivité, la responsabilité, la collaboration, la justice sociale, la bienveillance et la famille - faisant d'eux non seulement de bons élèves, mais aussi de bons citoyens.

CELEBRONS L'ENSEIGNEMENT CATHOLIQUE AU CANADA, UNE RÉUSSITE ÉPROUVÉE DEPUIS PLUS DE 170 ANS.

POUR EN SAVOIR D'AVANTAGE SUR L'ENSEIGNEMENT CATHOLIQUE AU CANADA, VEUILLEZ VISITER LE SITE DE L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES COMMISSAIRES D'ÉCOLES CATHOLIQUES À: WWW.CCSTACA.CA

Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association
Association canadienne des commissaires d'écoles catholiques



CANADA'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: THE SYSTEM WORKS

Catholic education is an integral part of society. It has deep roots throughout the country's history and culture - as much as any other institution. Catholic education is built on a strong foundation supported by parents, students, teachers, administrators, religious sisters and brothers, the clergy and the community. It is a proven success.

Historically, Canada's Catholic education system was established in fairness to Catholics. In 1867, the British North America Act guaranteed that all educational rights held by minorities at the time of Confederation would be constitutionally protected. Without this protection of denominational schools, Confederation would not have been achieved, and the Supreme Court of Canada has upheld this pillar of our nation.

CELEBRATE CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN CANADA - A PROVEN SUCCESS FOR MORE THAN 170 YEARS.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN CANADA, PLEASE VISIT THE CANADIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION ONLINE AT: WWW.CCSTACA.CA

Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association
Association canadienne des commissaires d'écoles catholiques



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.

2012-2013

Executive / Exécutif

Past President / Past Président
Paula Peroni
peronip@scdsb.edu.on.ca

Chaplain / Aumônier
Father Rémi Lessard
remles@puc.net

President / Président
Ted Paszek
tedp@eics.ab.ca

Executive Director / Directeur général
John Stunt
john.stunt@ocsb.ca

Vice-President / Vice-Président
Mike St. Amand
mike@ashlycw.com

2012-2013

Directors / Directeurs / directrices

British Columbia
Colleen Easson
eassonn@telus.net

Ontario (AFOCSC)
Joseph Bisnaire
jbisnaire@sympatico.ca

Alberta
Tony Sykora
tonysy@eics.ab.ca

Ontario (OCSTA)
Colleen Landers
landers@ntl.sympatico.ca

Saskatchewan
Jerome Niezgoda
j.niezgoda@sasktel.net

Ontario (OCSTA)
Nancy Kirby
nkirby@ocsta.on.ca

Manitoba
Margaret Kingdon
mkingdon@mymts.net

Atlantic
Robert N. Bernard
Robert.Berard@MSVU.ca

CCSTA Head Office

Catholic Education Centre
570 West Hunt Club Rd.
Nepean, Ont.
K2G 3R4
phone: 613-224-4455, ext. 2521
fax: 613-224-3187
email: ccsta@ocsb.ca

For news and links, visit our website at www.ccsta.ca.

From the Office Desk...

For everyone involved in elementary and secondary education, the period between now and the end of June is indeed a busy time. Not only are we winding down another school year, but planning for the next one is well underway.

CCSTA is part of this same cycle, with the AGM/Convention marking the end of another year, while at the same time looking forward to the next school year and the cycle of activities that falls under CCSTA's mandate.

A highlight of next fall will be the Catholic Education: A National Conversation conference which will be held October 3-5, 2013 in Ottawa. Much hard work and planning have already gone into the organization of this event, which will explore the relationship between Catholic education and the New Evangelization. We have a top notch group of keynote speakers to animate our conversation. Once again our conference co-ordinator, Gerry Bibby, has assembled a fine group of volunteers to assist with the many details that go into a successful conference. Gerry and his team always do us proud, and we hope you will join us in Ottawa this fall for this signature event.

The CCSTA political outreach strategy, although modest in scale, has been effective in keeping before the federal politicians the reality of Catholic schools in Canada. In the fall, we hosted a reception for a targeted group of MPs, Senators, and their staff. We received much praise and support for Catholic education from those that attended. As a follow-up, letters of thanks with further information on Catholic education were sent to all those invited to this event. This was followed with three branded mail-outs sent to all MPs and Senators beginning in April that contain important messages about Catholic education and its contribution to Canadian society. Our intent is to keep the value of Catholic education before our country's legislators. Our message was further reinforced by a statement read in the legislature to draw attention to World Catholic Education Day by MP, Dr. Kellie Leitch.

Pour tous ceux qui travaillent en enseignement à l'élémentaire et au secondaire, la fin juin représente un temps très occupé. Non seulement mettons-nous fin à une année scolaire, mais la suivante est aussi en préparation.

L'ACCEC suit le même rythme. Le congrès/AGA marque la fin d'une année, et au même moment, nous prévoyons l'année scolaire suivante et les activités qui font partie de notre mandat.

Le fait saillant de l'automne prochain sera le congrès L'Éducation catholique : un échange national, qui aura lieu du 3 au 5 octobre 2013 à Ottawa. Nous avons consacré beaucoup d'efforts à organiser cet événement, qui sera centré sur l'enseignement catholique et la nouvelle évangélisation. Les conférenciers invités sont de très haut calibre. Encore une fois, notre coordinateur Gerry Bibby s'est entouré d'une solide équipe de bénévoles pour s'assurer que tous les détails soient prévus. Gerry et son équipe font toujours un travail remarquable, et nous espérons que vous serez des nôtres pour cet événement unique.

La stratégie de sensibilisation de l'ACCEC aux réalités de l'école catholique au Canada, bien que de modeste envergure, a connu un franc succès auprès des politiciens fédéraux. Au cours de l'automne, nous avons invité un groupe ciblé de députés, de sénateurs et leur entourage à une réception. L'appui de ceux qui y ont assisté s'est avéré très favorable. En guise de suivi, nous avons fait parvenir une lettre de remerciements. En avril, nous avons individuellement posté à tous les députés et sénateurs une série de communiqués portant sur l'éducation catholique et son apport à la société canadienne, dans l'intention de garder l'éducation catholique à l'avant-plan chez nos législateurs. Notre message a été renforcé par la lecture d'une déclaration au sujet de la Journée mondiale de l'éducation catholique par la députée, le Dr Kellie Leitch. Notre campagne de sensibilisation se



We will round out the political outreach strategies with an article about Catholic education by our president in the "The Hill Times", the parliamentary newspaper which is widely read by politicians and their staff.

One of the privileges provided me as your executive director is to accompany our president as he represents your interests in the variety of events and meetings

he must attend. There was a number of these events this year, and I can report that Ted Paszek has been an excellent ambassador for Catholic education in the variety of venues we have attended. Ted's conviction, passion and political understanding have served the membership well this past year, and I look forward to the year to come under his leadership.

As we prepare to arrive in Winnipeg for our AGM/Convention, I know that a small, but well organized group has put together an excellent program and a warm welcome for you in Winnipeg. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there.

As we come to the end of this school year, we have many blessings to celebrate. Not the least of which is that CCSTA is centering its 53rd year of operation thanks to strong and dedicated leadership by our executive and board of directors and support from our membership. Many thanks as well to Jean Montminy who looks after the day to day affairs of the association with great competence. Both of us work with a supportive board which contributes immeasurably to a very good working environment. We look forward to continuing to serve you in the year ahead.

In the busy life of school trustees, I do hope that the summer months will provide you with opportunities for rest, relaxation and renewal.

Have a great summer, and God bless.

John Stunt
Executive Director

terminera avec un article de notre président sur l'éducation catholique, qui paraîtra dans le « Hill Times » le journal du parlement que les politiciens et leur personnel consultent régulièrement.

L'un de mes privilèges en tant que directeur général est d'accompagner le président lorsqu'il représente l'association à différentes fonctions officielles. Je peux vous assurer que M. Ted Paszek a été un excellent ambassadeur pour l'éducation catholique partout où nous sommes allés. Sa passion, sa conviction et son sens de la politique ont bien servi les membres au cours de cette année, et j'anticipe avec plaisir son leadership pour l'année qui s'en vient.

J'ai aussi hâte de vous rencontrer en grand nombre à notre congrès/AGA de Winnipeg. Un groupe restreint mais dévoué a mis sur pied un programme excellent et vous prépare un accueil chaleureux.

Cette année scolaire qui se termine nous a apporté bien des réussites pour lesquelles nous devons être reconnaissants. Cette 53e année d'opération de l'ACCEC a été un succès grâce au fort leadership du conseil d'administration et à l'appui de nos membres. Nous devons aussi remercier Jean Montminy dont la compétence dans l'organisation des opérations journalières de l'association est remarquable. L'appui du conseil dans l'accomplissement de nos tâches rend l'atmosphère de travail très agréable, et l'année qui s'en vient s'avère prometteuse.

J'espère que les mois d'été sauront vous offrir un repos et un ressourcement bien mérités après une année occupée à un rythme effréné.

Je vous souhaite un excellent été et vous offre mes meilleurs vœux.

John Stunt
Directeur général

Catholic Education Enters the House of Commons L'éducation catholique fait son entrée à la Chambre des communes



Dr. Kellie Leitch

Catholic Education was recently at the forefront of the Parliament House of Commons in Ottawa.

Dr. Kellie Leitch, parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour Lisa Raitt, spoke to the House of Commons on April 23, announcing the significance of World Catholic Education Day, which was celebrated May 9, 2013.

Dr. Leitch, a Catholic school graduate, shared this news with federal politicians and the country as she took the floor. This was her official statement to the House:

“Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to inform the House that World Catholic Education Day will be celebrated throughout the world on May 9.

In Canada, Catholic education is an integral contributor to our Canadian identity and culture. Catholic education has helped define Canadian society through its deeply-rooted teachings of service to the community and

ongoing promotion of respect and dignity of all persons.

The presence of Catholic education is based on the values of peace, justice and respect, values that are inherent to our Canadian identity.

The accomplishments of both the English and French Canadian Catholic education system over the last 170 years have been an integral part of the growth and spirit of Canada.

I would like to thank the schools in my riding of Simcoe—Grey, including Father F.X. O’Reilly Catholic School, Holy Family Catholic School, Jean Vanier Catholic High School, Monsignor J.E. Ronan Catholic School, Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School, Prince of Peace Catholic School, St. James Catholic School, St. Mary’s Catholic School and St. Paul’s Catholic School, for their huge contribution to our community.

Congratulations to all of those involved in Catholic education in our provinces and territories as they join with their colleagues across the world on May 9.”

Bringing Catholic Education to the federal government’s attention drives home our schools’ importance and how they play a part in defining our nation. CCSTA is energized and grateful for the time and effort Dr. Leitch took to share this message.

L’éducation catholique a récemment été mise en valeur à la Chambre des communes à Ottawa.

Le Dr. Kellie Leitch, assistante parlementaire de la ministre du Travail Lisa Raitt, s’est adressée à la Chambre le 23 avril pour montrer l’importance de la Journée mondiale de l’éducation catholique, célébrée le 9 mai 2013.

Le Dr. Leitch, elle-même diplômée de l’école catholique, a pris la parole pour partager cette nouvelle avec les politiciens fédéraux et le reste du pays.

Voici le texte officiel de son intervention :

« M. le Président, il me fait plaisir de vous annoncer que le 9 mai 2013 marquera la Journée mondiale de l’éducation catholique partout au Canada et sur tous les continents.

Au Canada, l’éducation catholique fait partie intégrante de notre culture et de notre identité. L’éducation catholique a contribué à définir la société canadienne en défendant la justice sociale, et en favorisant le service à la communauté ainsi que le respect et la dignité de chaque personne.

La présence de l’éducation catholique s’affirme dans la paix, la justice et le respect, toutes des valeurs inhérentes à l’identité canadienne.

Depuis 170 ans, les succès qu’ont

connus les systèmes scolaires catholiques, francophone comme anglophone, ont fait partie de la croissance et de l’esprit du Canada.

Je tiens à remercier les écoles de ma circonscription de Simcoe-Grey, Father F.X. O’Reilly Catholic School, Holy Family Catholic School, Jean Vanier Catholic High School, Monsignor J.E. Ronan Catholic School, Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School, Prince of Peace Catholic School, St. James Catholic School, St. Mary’s Catholic School et St. Paul’s Catholic School, pour leur immense contribution à notre communauté.

Nous remercions donc et félicitons tous ceux qui dans les provinces et les territoires sont intervenants en éducation catholique, et qui le 9 mai 2013 se joindront à leurs collègues d’ailleurs dans le monde pour célébrer la Journée mondiale de l’éducation catholique. »

Le fait d’attirer l’attention du gouvernement fédéral sur l’éducation catholique soulève l’importance de nos écoles et de leur impact dans le développement de notre nation. L’ACCEC se sent ravivée et est reconnaissante envers le Dr. Leitch pour avoir pris le temps de partager ce message.

CCSTA Represented at NCEA Conference L’ACCEC est présente au congrès de la NCEA

President Ted Paszek and Executive Director, John Stunt, attended the NCEA convention in Houston, Texas, April 2-4, 2013.

One of 32 nations represented at the conference, the Canadian contingent also had representatives from Catholic principal and teacher groups and individual delegates from across Canada. As a national organization, CCSTA was invited to attend the President’s Award Banquet as the guests of NCEA.

Karen Ristau, outgoing president of NCEA, introduced Ted Paszek and John Stunt to the incoming president, Brother Robert Bimonte, and Bishop Blaise Cupich, the new NCEA Board Chair.

CCSTA has enjoyed an excellent reciprocal arrangement with NCEA, which is expected to continue under the new leadership.

The conference attracted close to 10,000 Catholic educators who enjoyed inspiring liturgies, stimulating keynote speakers, a wide variety of workshops, and a large marketplace of vendors of educational supplies and services. The 2014 NCEA convention will be held in Pittsburgh, PA on April 22-24, 2014.

M. Ted Paszek, président de l’ACCEC, et M. John Stunt, directeur général, ont assisté au congrès de la NCEA, qui s’est déroulé à Houston du 2 au 4 avril 2013.

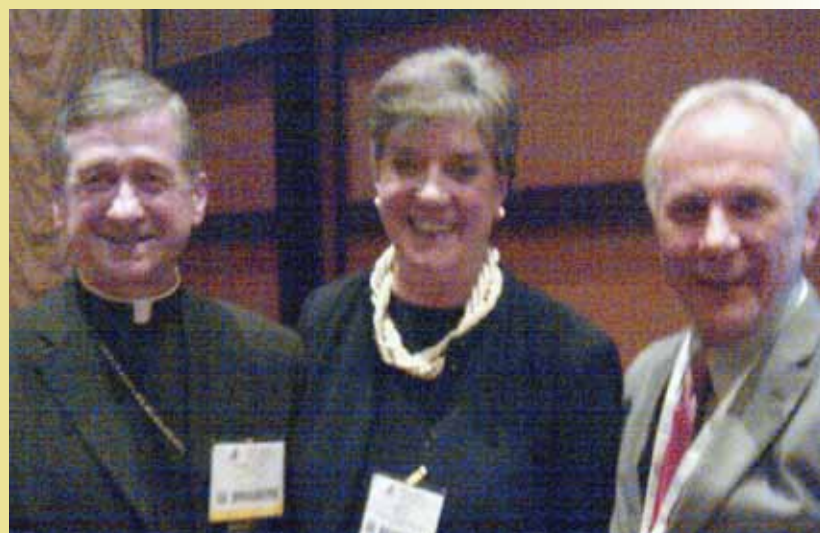
Représentant l’un des 32 pays présents, le contingent canadien comptait des directeurs d’écoles catholiques, des groupes d’enseignants et des participants individuels de partout au Canada. Comme organisation nationale, l’ACCEC a participé au banquet du président en tant qu’invitée de la NCEA.

Mme Karen Ristau, présidente sortante, a introduit Ted Paszek et John Stunt au nouveau président, le Père Robert Bimonte, et au nouveau président du conseil, Mgr Blaise Cupich.

Nous sommes confiants que la relation privilégiée entre l’ACCEC et la NCEA se poursuivra sous la nouvelle direction.

Le congrès a réuni près de 10 000 éducateurs catholiques. Ils ont profité de liturgies inspirantes, de conférenciers stimulants, participé à une variété d’ateliers et ont pu visiter les stands de nombreux fournisseur du milieu éducatif.

Le prochain congrès de la NCEA aura lieu à Pittsburgh du 22 au 24 avril 2014.



CCSTA names Greg McNally as 2013 Higgins Award recipient

Greg McNally is a familiar name around many tables in Catholic education across Canada. From committees to curriculums and from local school boards to national events, McNally has become a respected leader throughout his 40 years in education.

For his outstanding commitment to Catholic education in the country, McNally has been chosen as the 2013 recipient for the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association Justice James Higgins Award.

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

Nominated by the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario, McNally said he was astonished to hear of being chosen for an award which he personally knows is CCSTA's highest honour. "It's humbling to win the award," he said. "It also recognizes the work that others have done with you over the years."

In the CDSBEO's nomination, the board stated that McNally is "well-known and respected for his faithful and faith-filled commitment to Catholic education." Furthermore, the nomination said that McNally has "been a Catholic leader who has exemplified noble qualities of leadership

in Catholic education locally, within his parish and community, regionally in his many roles within the school board, as well as provincially and nationally..."

An educator for 40 years, McNally got his start at St. John Separate School in Perth, Ont. in 1970 teaching religion, English, history, math, physical and health education to students in Grades 7 through 10. From there, he became vice-principal and then was appointed principal, spending 17 years in total at the school, spanning 1970 to 1987. McNally was already making a name for himself then, as is noted in his nomination papers, that he was the first principal of St. John School, since 1892, who was not a Sister of Providence.

From there, McNally became the Superintendent of Education for the Lanark, Leeds and Grenville County Roman Catholic Separate School Board, in Smiths Falls, Ont. In 2000, McNally was appointed to the role of director of education for the board and served as such until he retired in 2004. During this time, he served as chair of about 10 regional and provincial committees through the board. After retiring from his post with the CDSBEO, McNally



accepted the position of executive director for CCSTA, where he stayed for almost six years until retiring.

With CCSTA, McNally successfully moved the national office to Ottawa from Toronto and oversaw the Toonies for Tuition campaign designed to assist

students in provinces with partial or no public funding, in addition to facilitating the renewal of CCSTA's vision.

"I have always been a strong supporter of the role of the trustee - whether it's at the local level, at the school board level or at the national level, because I see that the Catholic school trustee and trustees in every education system are the voice of the people. They speak for the people, and we really need that role in education," McNally said.

McNally noted that although his roles were many, they were all fulfilling. "Education is the key to success for students, but also for society," he said.

McNally said he had great mentors throughout his career. Each time he took on a new position, he credits these mentors for initially helping him succeed. "I have been fortunate to be associated with wonderful people who I learned from and who assisted me.

I set my own way, but I also learned from others."

Although his career definitely progressed over the years, he still views himself as a teacher. "I consider teaching a calling rather than a job," he said. With that, he said Catholic education is important. "It approaches a unique philosophy of education; you can put that into action," he said. "We used examples of our religion in education. We always focused on enriching students' mind, body, heart and soul and teaching a life curriculum."

McNally went on to say he never forgot that throughout his career and in his various roles. He always brought every decision, curriculum and strategy back to the essential question of how to provide the best learning experience for the student in the classroom.

One thing that still resonates with McNally is the energy and dedication of people who worked within Catholic education. "No matter where you went, there were such good people," he said. "Wherever you go - Perth, British Columbia, the United States - you always run into people who give so much of themselves. You really realize how similar it is no matter where you are. The purpose is the same and that spirit of collaboration is there."

The 2013 Justice James Higgins Award will be presented to McNally in Winnipeg at the CCSTA annual general meeting in June.

L'ACCEC accorde le prix Higgins 2013 à M. Greg McNally

Greg McNally est un nom familier dans le milieu éducatif catholique au Canada. Au cours de ses 40 années d'implication auprès de comités, de conseils scolaires, dans des événements nationaux ou la création de curriculum, il est devenu un leader respecté.

Pour sa contribution exceptionnelle à l'éducation catholique au pays, M. McNally a été retenu comme récipiendaire du prix Justice James Higgins 2013 par l'Association canadienne des commissaires d'écoles catholiques.

Le prix Higgins de l'ACCEC est décerné annuellement à la mémoire d'un juriste et conseiller scolaire catholique canadien, l'honorable James Higgins. Ce prix reconnaît une contribution exceptionnelle à l'éducation catholique au Canada.

Mis en candidature par le Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario, M. McNally avoue qu'il a été étonné d'être choisi pour un prix dont il sait qu'il représente le plus haut honneur accordé par l'ACCEC. « Recevoir ce prix incite à l'humilité, » dit-il. « C'est aussi le travail des autres au cours des ans qui est reconnu. »

La mise en candidature du CDSBEO indiquait que M. McNally « est reconnu et respecté pour son engagement ancré dans la foi et sa loyauté

envers l'éducation catholique. » On cite également qu'il était « un leader catholique exemplaire dont les précieuses qualités étaient reconnues à l'échelon local, dans sa paroisse et sa communauté, au niveau régional de par ses nombreuses fonctions au conseil scolaire, ainsi qu'aux niveaux provincial et national... »

Éducateur pendant 40 ans, M. McNally a connu ses débuts à l'école St. John Separate School à Perth, Ont. en 1970. Il enseignait la religion, l'anglais, l'histoire, les mathématiques et l'éducation physique, de la 7e à la 10e année. Il est ensuite devenu directeur adjoint, puis nommé directeur de cette école où il a passé 17 ans. Depuis 1892, il était le premier directeur de St. John's à ne pas provenir des rangs des Sœurs de la Providence.

Par la suite, M. McNally est devenu surintendant de l'éducation pour le Lanark, Leeds and Grenville County Roman Catholic Separate School Board à Smiths Falls, en Ontario.

En 2000, M. McNally a été nommé directeur de l'éducation, rôle qu'il a conservé jusqu'à sa retraite en 2004. Au cours de ce mandat, il a présidé une dizaine de comités régionaux et provinciaux. À son départ du CDSBEO, il a occupé le poste de directeur général

de l'ACCEC pendant presque six ans, jusqu'à sa retraite.

Auprès de l'ACCEC, M. McNally a supervisé le déplacement du bureau national de Toronto à Ottawa et la mise en œuvre de Toonies for Tuition, cette campagne de collecte de fonds pour les élèves des provinces partiellement ou aucunement subventionnées. Il a aussi contribué au renouvellement de la vision de l'ACCEC.

« J'ai toujours appuyé le rôle du conseiller scolaire, que ce soit au niveau local, régional ou national, parce que les conseillers scolaires catholiques - comme tous les conseillers scolaires - représentent la voix du peuple. Ils parlent au nom des gens, et c'est un rôle important en éducation, » dit M. McNally.

Il mentionne que si ses responsabilités ont été nombreuses, elles ont aussi été enrichissantes. « L'éducation est la clé du succès pour les élèves, mais aussi pour la société, » dit-il.

M. McNally confie qu'il a eu de grands mentors au cours de sa carrière. Pour chaque nouveau poste qu'il a occupé, il reconnaît les mentors qui l'ont aidé à réussir. « J'ai eu la chance de côtoyer des gens de grande valeur qui m'ont appuyé et de qui j'ai appris. J'ai fait les choses à ma façon, mais j'ai aussi appris des autres. »

Malgré une carrière impressionnante, il se considère toujours comme enseignant. « Je trouve que l'enseignement est un appel plutôt qu'un job, » dit-il. « L'éducation catholique est importante. Elle préconise une philosophie de l'éducation qu'on peut mettre en œuvre. Par des exemples tirés de notre religion, on enrichit l'esprit, le cœur, le corps et l'âme de nos élèves tout en enseignant une façon de vivre. »

M. McNally dit n'avoir jamais oublié ceci à travers les rôles qu'il a remplis dans sa carrière. Chaque décision, stratégie ou contenu pédagogique devait s'arrimer à la question essentielle de ce qui constitue la meilleure situation d'apprentissage pour l'élève.

Un souvenir qu'il retient est l'énergie et l'implication de ceux qui oeuvrent en éducation catholique. « Partout, j'ai rencontré des gens hors pair, » dit-il. « Où qu'on aille, que ce soit à Perth, en Colombie-Britannique ou aux États-Unis, les gens qu'on rencontre sont entièrement dévoués. C'est la même chose, peu importe l'endroit. Le but est le même, et l'esprit de collaboration est présent. »

Le prix Justice James Higgins 2013 sera remis à M. McNally à Winnipeg en juin prochain, lors de l'assemblée générale annuelle de l'ACCEC.

Provincial Reports

British Columbia

The Catholic Independent Schools Committee of BC (CISCBC) extends warm greetings to you all from beautiful British Columbia!

For those of you that know little about the BC Catholic School System, there are five dioceses in the province. Each Diocesan School Board of Directors hires a Superintendent to oversee the Catholic Schools within that diocese. Each Board sets policy and direction for the schools in their diocese, with a number of responsibilities being handed on to local school boards (generally called School Councils or Education Committees). The School Councils are responsible for local school policies and decisions. 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.

Federation of Independent Schools Association (FISA)

The Federation of Independent School Associations, established in 1966, is an umbrella organization for all independent schools in BC. The Federation is the voice for all of its members, and acts as a liaison between the schools and the government and other educational institutions. No individual school or association lobbies the government on its own behalf. The FISA is dedicated to assisting independent schools in maintaining their independence while seeking fair treatment for them in legislative and financial terms.

The FISA's mission, to enable parents to exercise the right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children and to promote the rightful place and responsibility of independent schools within a democratic and pluralistic society, is currently under revision.

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

Our Numbers

Statistics recently 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. "Distributed Learning (DL) enrolment showed the largest growth with 20 independent DL schools enrolling 7,673 students in 2012-2013. Since 2008, DL enrolment in public and independent schools has increased by 138%! Approximately 20% of the DL students in BC are enrolled in independent DL schools, compared to 12.4% of the brick-and-mortar students." (March 2013 FISA newsletter)

Award Winner

Mr. Peter Froese, the Executive Director of the FISA, was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in February for his service to the citizens of BC in the field of education. Congratulations are extended to Peter.

This year, the FISA:

- successfully lobbied the government for the funding of adult education offered in independent schools. Beginning the 2013-14 school year, non-graduated adult students enrolled in independent schools, provided the eligible courses lead to a BC Certificate of Graduation, will receive funding at the 50% (Group 1) and 35% (Group 2) rate of that received in the public school.
- approved a new Student Records Requirements Policy template for school use.
- successfully lobbied the government so that independent school administrators and teachers are allowed to participate in the Ministry of Education ERASE Bullying Training sessions.

Kamloops Diocese

In order to keep tuition affordable for most of our parents, the schools have had to rely on more subsidies from supporting parishes. This has become a concern as attendance in our churches has steadily declined and the amounts provided through collections is diminishing. In some cases, parishes have had to borrow funds from the diocese to provide an operational subsidy to the school. Kindergarten numbers are slightly increasing across the diocese. The increases aren't huge but it is a hopeful sign for the future.

All Saints Catholic E-school Network Delivered – ASCEND Online – This is the Catholic Distributed Learning School – All Saints Catholic E-school Network. They have 174 students enrolled this school year from across the province. The Online service continues to grow and more students are expected to enroll for the 2013 – 2014 school year.

Nelson Diocese

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. The diocese is presently working on a market strategy to increase enrolment in the schools. Present enrolment stands at 1126.

One school, St. Joseph's elementary school in Kelowna is in need of major renovations or a rebuild.

Prince George Diocese

On January 3, 2013 Pope Benedict XVI appointed Msgr. Stephen Jensen, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, as Bishop of the Diocese of Prince George. Bishop-elect Jensen was ordained on April 2, 2013 in Prince George.

Enrolment

So far there is an increase in students for the 2013 -2014 school year. Veritas Catholic school in Terrace, BC is looking at offering K-8 for 2013-2014 and K-9 for 2014-2015. They want to begin a building project in order to facilitate the growth in their school. They are also looking at starting a pre-Kindergarten class in the Parish meeting area.



Notre Dame in Dawson Creek has two kindergarten classes this year. They have a similar situation to Annunciation in Prince Rupert whereas there is not much room to expand the school unless they build up. Smithers currently has two kindergarten classes and next year they will offer split classes of two Grade 1 classes.

Victoria Diocese

The 10th annual youth conference was held May 24-26. The keynote speaker was Jesse Manibusan.

He and his wife founded 2 by 2 ministries in 1985. He holds a Master of Arts in Multicultural Ministries from the Franciscan School of Theology, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California. His focus is on evangelization, catechesis and service by stirring up and encouraging the faithful to show up, step up, step out and plug in.

Catholic Schools Plan

The Catholic Schools Plan and its vision for safe, affordable and sustainable Catholic schools is well underway. On March 8 Island Catholic Schools celebrated the start of construction on a \$6 million renewal of St. Joseph's Elementary School. The Ground Breaking ceremony was led by Bishop Richard Gagnon of the Diocese of Victoria, Island Catholic Schools Superintendent Joe Colistro along with students and staff from St. Joseph's and St. Andrew's Elementary Schools.

BC Ministry of Education

The provincial election was May 14 and, as always, independent school supporters were keenly interested in wanting to know which candidates support "educational choice" in BC. Our goal is that the party elected continues to support such choice and continue with maintaining the financial support that independent schools receive. At the writing of this report, the election had yet to take place.

The preliminary per student operating grant estimates for the upcoming school year have increased ever so slightly for most, but not all, schools. As always, this continues to impact all schools, making it extremely difficult to meet the demands of competitive salaries, current resource and technology needs, and facility maintenance and upgrades.

"The Office of the Inspector for Independent Schools (OIS) has announced that independent schools will no longer be required to submit applications for special needs funding. Instead schools will report special needs categories on Form 1701 in each of the September and February data collections. For school administrators and special education coordinators, this represents a significant shift in focus and time commitments, and should lead to improved services for students with special needs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Provincial Reports

FROM PAGE 7

(March 2013 FISA newsletter)

ERASE (Expect Respect and A Safe Education) Bullying is a new Ministry initiative which “builds on the Province’s Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools Strategy (2004)”. <http://www.erasebullying.ca>

CISCBC (Catholic Independent Schools Committee of BC)

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

- development of “Committed to Bully Free School” which parallels the ERASE program for public schools. <http://www.cisva.bc.ca/bullyfreeschool>;
- update and reprint of the Catholic Education in BC brochure;
- development of a provincial Catholic School Leadership Course; and
- surveys sent to parents who have children enrolled in our Catholic schools as well as to Catholic parents who have their children enrolled in a public school for the purpose of gathering information in order to better market our schools.

Colleen Easson, who is a member of the CISCBC and from the Prince George Diocese, is our CCSTA representative. Thanks are extended to Colleen for her dedication to this role.

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!

Alberta/NWT

Advocacy

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

The ACSTA continues to participate as a key stakeholder in the Alberta Government and Alberta Education’s drafting of resolutions surrounding the new Education Act.

With the upcoming municipal election, the ACSTA has produced the following election guide on running as a Catholic school trustee: Called to this Vocation – Serving as a Catholic School Trustee. The brochure (in both English and French), along with posters are available on our website at: www.acsta.ab.ca/resources/election-book.

In conjunction with its communication initiatives, the ACSTA is hosting a student short video contest called G.R.A.C.E. (God’s Riches Alive in Catholic Education). Similar to the project used by the Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association, students have been asked to create a short video on the value of Catholic education and upload it to YouTube. These will be used in the promotion of Catholic education. For more information, visit: www.acsta.ab.ca/resources/acstavideocontest.

Further to this, the ACSTA has partnered with Orange Fountain video production company to create a professional five-minute video on value, diversity and excellence of Catholic education in

Alberta. This video will also be used for advocacy purposes.

Faith Development

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

The ACSTA has hosted three very successful conferences. The 2013 Spring Conference, Beacons of Hope, Reasons to Believe, took place with keynote speaker Mike Patin from March 15-17, 2013 in Canmore, Alberta. It provided Catholic trustees with an exploration of the role of their faith in their vocation of trusteeship.

The ACSTA hosted its annual S.P.I.C.E. Conference, Christian Witnesses: Authentic, Engaged, Loving, from April 25-28, 2013 featuring keynote speaker Jerry Goebel. ACSTA also hosted its Blueprints Conference, Spiritual Wisdom for Ordinary Christians, from April 30-May 3, 2013 featuring keynote speaker Dr. Richard Gaillardetz. These two conferences brought Catholic educators, administrators and other members of the Catholic education community together in a faith journey with their colleagues for collaboration and growth.

Communications

The ACSTA continues to send ACSTA Happenings, a monthly e-newsletter, to its member boards and education stakeholders detailing the current activities and issues in which the ACSTA is involved.

The ACSTA has published its 2013 Spring edition of the Catholic Dimension. It is now available solely online at www.acsta.ab.ca/publications/catholic-dimension.

The ACSTA website is highlighting the good news stories from our member boards throughout the year. Each month you can read of the amazing work that our districts are participating in here: www.acsta.ab.ca/good-news.

The ACSTA has published its 2011-2012 Annual Report, Year of Faith, and it is available on our website at www.acsta.ab.ca/publications/annual-report.

Governance

The ACSTA held its successful 2012 AGM & Convention from November 16-18, 2012 in Edmonton. At the AGM, Tony Sykora was re-elected as President of the ACTSA and Serafino Scarpino was re-elected as Vice-President of ACSTA.

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

Saskatchewan

Theodore Litigation

As has been reported in the past, the constitutional entitlement and mandate of Catholic Education in Saskatchewan is being challenged in an upcoming court case. On August 27, 2012 Honourable Judge Mills dismissed our application to strike portions of the claim on the basis of standing. After reviewing this decision, the

SCSBA Board of Directors has agreed to apply for leave to appeal this judgement. The application was submitted on September 11, 2012, a hearing to determine if leave to appeal was held in Regina on October 24, 2012. On October 29, 2012, we were informed that the Honourable Judge Cameron dismissed our application for leave to appeal. With this decision, we will be proceeding with final preparations for the trial which is likely to begin early in 2014.

SCSBA Website Revisions

Under the direction of the Communications Committee, the SCSBA website has been up-dated and revised with an entirely new look. Special thanks to Tom Hawboldt from the Light of Christ Catholic School Division, for his outstanding work in creating our new website.

2013 SCSBA Spring Seminar

The SCSBA hosted another very successful Annual Spring Seminar on April 26 - 27, 2013 at the Sheraton Cavalier in Saskatoon. The theme for 2013 was “Called to Discipleship”. The main keynote speaker was Michael Chiasson, founder of All Access Ministries in Calgary, Alberta. The conference concluded with an inspiring closing keynote address delivered by His Excellency Bishop Albert Thevenot, Bishop of the Prince Albert Roman Catholic Diocese. Special thanks to the administrative staff and Board of Education of Prince Albert Catholic Schools for the coordination of this event.

Proposed 2014 SCSBA Mission Trip to Peru

The SCSBA is investigating the possibility of organizing a mission trip to Peru in February of 2014. This mission trip would be an opportunity to provide support to a group of very poor people in Peru, planned in conjunction with a group called “Christian Life Movement” and “Sotalitum Christiana Vitae”. Activities will be planned and arranged based on interest and need. Some examples of possible activities are as follows:

- Building stairs up the mountain in Shanty Town
- Building playgrounds in a community
- Sponsoring and working at a dental hygiene clinic
- Sponsoring and working at a sports clinic/camp
- Volunteering at medical health facilities
- Supporting other projects as suggested by the Christian Life Movement

Curriculum Permeation Project

We are in year five of a seven-year project to create resources to help teachers to permeate Catholic teaching in all subject areas. In the 2012-13 school year teachers were involved in piloting resources developed during the summer of 2012 for Grades 1-5 Science and Health. The Committee has contracted teacher writers to create resources which will be ready for piloting in September, 2013 in Grades 1-5 Social Studies and English Language Arts A10 & B20. The committee has also conducted an implementation survey in May, 2013 to determine the level of usage of the newly developed resources. The SCSBA Board of Directors will receive results from the implementation survey at the September meeting. Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus State

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Provincial Reports

FROM PAGE 8

Charitable Foundation for their generous grant to support this project.

K-9 Religion Resource Development/Grades 10 - 12 Christian Ethics Revisions

After meeting with the Religious Education Coordinators and Directors of Education, it has been determined we are in need of revision to our Grades 10-12 Christian Ethics courses. Under the direction of these groups, meetings have taken place with Ministry officials to investigate the possibility of creating new curricula for Grades 10 - 12 Christian Ethics. We are pleased that we have also been invited to be part of the process of developing new Elementary Religion Resources, working with the OCSTA and the Ontario Catholic Bishops, in the coming year..



Part of the pre-convention tour during the CCSTA AGM week in Winnipeg will include a history lesson on Manitoba's settlers days.

Manitoba

Catholic Schools in Manitoba have a long tradition and an excellent reputation in the community. They are owned by parishes, either archdiocese, or religious orders. All Catholic Schools in Manitoba belong to the Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools (MFIS). The Director of Education of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg Catholic Schools is currently the Chair of the Board of MFIS.

Our Funding

During the spring of 2013, Manitoba's NDP Government announced funding for independent schools as a 2.8% increase over last year's per pupil grant amount. In 2013-14, schools will receive \$5,024 per full-time equivalent pupil plus an additional \$60 textbook grant per FTE student. This per-pupil grant is equivalent to 50% of the provincial average per pupil expenditure, minus specific deductions, of the public school divisions in 2011/12. The remainder of the cost of educating a child is covered by tuitions which range from \$800 to \$7,000 per student, fundraising, parish contributions, and reduced wages paid to teachers in most schools who earn 60% to 90% of their counterparts in public schools. Despite this, we have no difficulty attracting high-quality, dedicated teachers.

Our Enrolment

As of Sept. 30, 2012, Manitoba's Catholic schools reported to government an enrolment of 5,033 students (K-12), which was comprised of 1,619 students in the schools of the CSC and 3,414 students in the AWCS. While individual schools have seen fluctuating enrolments over the years, the overall enrolment trend for Manitoba's Catholic schools has been a very slight incremental growth – approximately 1% per year over the last 10 years. This current year represents a 1% increase. This contrasts to the Province where there is a steady decline in the number of students. We will again be unable to accommodate all the students who wish to enroll in high school in the 2013-14 school year.

Most of our elementary schools also operate Pre-Kindergarten or Nursery programs but do not

receive government funds for these students.

the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

Our Infrastructure

Catholic Schools do not receive capital funding in Manitoba, which puts an additional strain on communities to fundraise in order to upkeep buildings. This also prevents them from expanding when there is increased demand. Many of our schools have waiting lists. No new Catholic schools have 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 over the past few years. Schools have also fundraised to purchase new computers and smart boards so they can continue to incorporate technology into the curriculum. Immaculate Heart of Mary, our Ukrainian Catholic School, has purchased property and has begun a campaign to raise the \$15 million dollars required to build a new building. Both St. Mary's Academy and St. Paul's High School have just completed additions to their buildings so they may better meet the programing requirements of their existing students.

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

The central organizations of Catholic Schools of Manitoba are under the direction of the Bishops. The Archdiocese of Winnipeg Catholic Schools (AWCS) and the Catholic Schools Commission (CSC), which represents the eight schools in the Archdiocese of St. Boniface and the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy, will be completing the 8th year of their service contract. In this arrangement, the AWCS office provides administrative and support services to the CSC schools. The AWCS Director of Education and staff are employees of

Bill 18

The Government of Manitoba introduced Bill 18, Safe and Caring Schools, into the Legislature this past November. It is an amendment to the Public Schools Act. Catholic Schools will be required to follow the requirements of the Act as a requirement of the Minister of Education as per section 60(5) of the Public Schools Act that lists the requirements of independent schools to receive funding. The Bishops of Manitoba and the AWCS office have been expecting these requirements and have been following closely the similar situation that developed in Ontario. We have had many meetings with the Minister of Education and the Department of Education and the Minister has given us a letter of comfort and assurance that our schools will be able to operate within the unique religious perspectives/cultural objectives and values of an independent school and its community. We have currently developed or made changes to our Code of Conduct, Respect for Human Diversity Policy, and Administrative Guidelines for Student Groups to meet the requirements of Bill 18. We will be accommodating students who wish to form Gay Straight Alliances but within the context of Catholic teachings. Workshops are planned for December to assist staff in this process.

Hosting this year's AGM

We would like to welcome all delegates and companions to Manitoba. A great deal of time and effort has gone into the planning of this convention. We are very proud that all our Catholic School communities have been involved in this process. We are not a large province, but we have very dedicated parishes, parents, teachers, administrators, trustees, pastors, and bishops who sacrifice their time, energy, and resources to support our Catholic schools.

We hope that you have been able to Embrace the Spirit of our province and of the Living God who is with us every day, in every Catholic school across Canada. Thank you for coming to Winnipeg and we hope you enjoy your time with us.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Provincial Reports

FROM PAGE 9

Ontario

Global economic restraints continue to have impact on provincial and local economies that directly affect education in Ontario. Such pressures create fertile ground for one-school system advocates who continue to argue in public forums that the provincial economy can no longer afford to fund a separate system for Catholic schools.

It is clear to many in the government and throughout Ontario's school system that such arguments are solely based on political opportunism and not on an accurate cost-savings analysis or evidence-based studies that might support their claims.

While the efforts of the one-school system movement haven't been overly successful, the individuals involved are persistent.

It is within this environment that OCSTA is developing proactive strategies (like our Faith in Our Future campaign) and timely responses to vigorously protect our denominational rights and promote our school system as a valued part of the foundation and culture of this province.

This kind of vigilance and promotional message is what we communicate to political leaders at the provincial level and to influencers and media throughout the province. It is also the message we encourage our boards to share at the local level with MPPs and municipal officials.



OCSTA

New Minister of Education

OCSTA's President, Marino Gazzola, Vice President, Kathy Burtnik and Executive Director, Kevin Kobus, recently met with Ontario's new Minister of Education, the Hon. Liz Sandals.

The meeting provided a good opportunity to share OCSTA's messages about the value and distinctive needs of Catholic schools in Ontario. Minister Sandals is well aware of the value of our system and expressed her sincere support for Catholic education in Ontario.

At OCSTA's recent AGM & Conference the Minister of Education was adamant in her support for Catholic education, adding that she has defended Catholic education against the attacks issued by one-school system advocates in her riding, and she will continue to defend Catholic education. The Minister acknowledged to Conference del-

egates, that Ontario's Catholic schools contribute to the great success of Ontario's school system and that success is based on long-standing relationships and cooperation between public, French and Catholic school boards.

OCSTA has without question begun to build a strong and productive working relationship with the Minister and her senior staff, and the Association continues to have a positive relationship with senior levels of the Ministry's bureaucracy. There is also ongoing interaction with key members of the Premier's staff.

In keeping with OCSTA's mission as a non-partisan lobby group, the Association is also constantly in contact with the two Opposition parties to ensure they are aware of the priorities of Ontario's Catholic school boards.

In such a complex political environment, we are working tirelessly with the government, the Opposition parties, our Catholic partners, and our fellow trustee associations, to safeguard the rights of Catholic trustees and school boards in Ontario.

Labour

The Ontario government is preparing to define in legislation a future bargaining model for the education sector by the end of 2013. They will consult with the sector to gather perspectives on a future bargaining model and OCSTA has taken steps to be prepared.

Since January, OCSTA has provided three opportunities for CDSB trustees, directors of education and human resources officials from across the province to explore the issues and to gather perspectives on what a future bargaining model should look like in the education sector.

These opportunities included:

- a face-to-face meeting on January 17 that was professionally facilitated
- a request for written feedback from boards (provided to OCSTA at the beginning of March); and
- A final OCSTA hosted discussion session on March 22 designed specifically to allow for dialogue among trustees, directors of education and human resources officials on the types of bargaining structures and practices best suited to the needs and concerns of Catholic school boards.

Those consultation opportunities generated a lot of valuable feedback for OCSTA. In order to assess that information and determine clear recommendations for the Board of Directors, a committee was struck to execute the task.

The Committee came up with recommendations that were approved by the Board of Directors and shared with the membership.



Faith in Our Future Campaign

OCSTA's Faith in Our Future Campaign is truly a grass roots effort, resourced by the Association but driven by our champion advocates for Catholic

education – Catholic school trustees.

Trustees (and school boards) have been provided with speaking notes, brochures, posters and online marketing materials and strategies to help advance the message about the value of Catholic education to the life of Ontario and the future of this country.

Information and materials are available for trustees on the OCSTA website (members' centre) and also on the campaign website www.faithinourfuture.ca.

One of the most effective promotions of this campaign has been the Faith in Our Future short-video contest for students. Launched in November, the contest invited students to create a one-minute video about Catholic education, their perspectives on learning in a Catholic schools and how Catholic education affects their lives. The Association screened the winning videos at the annual January Trustee Professional Development Seminar.

That contest went over so well that OCSTA repeated the event this spring. The deadline for submission of videos was April 19 and winning entries were screened at the Association's May AGM & Conference in Toronto.

The response was outstanding! OCSTA received almost 50 video submissions, and while that created some work for the committee to review, the committee thoroughly enjoyed the experience and expressed great appreciation for the creativity, the passion and the love for Catholic education that was demonstrated by students AND staff.

From a public communication perspective, these videos do far more to promote and articulate the value and impact of Catholic education on the youth we serve and the communities in which we live, than any white paper or brief about our system could ever do.

OCSTA now has valuable, engaging content to share online with other Catholic partners, parents, students, alumni, media, etc. Sharing in social media forums is a cost-effective way to have a significant impact in major segments of our community and within our target audiences. Given the pervasive use of computers and mobile devices, it has now become a necessity for the Catholic school lobby to have a constant and engaging presence in social media.

AFOCSC

Planification stratégique 2014-2014

L'AFOCSC est en période de planification stratégique qui établira ses priorités et dirigera ses activités pour les années 2014-2019. Les services du Centre canadien de leadership en éducation ont été retenus pour diriger ce processus qui inclura une consultation auprès des conseillers scolaires. Un sondage en ligne a été préparé à cet effet. L'adoption est prévue pour mars 2014.

Relations de travail – Règlement de différends

Depuis l'imposition des conventions collectives par l'ancienne Ministre de l'Éducation, l'AFOCSC travaille à assurer sa place lors des règlements de différends. Puisque nous sommes une petite

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Provincial Reports

FROM PAGE 10

organisation notre manque de capacité organisationnelle nous rend la tâche difficile dans la gestion de ce dossier. Il y a certes un manque de ressources humaines et de ressources financières pour s'acquitter de cette nouvelle tâche.

Puisque ceci est un processus imposé par le MÉO et que ni l'Association ni les conseils ont été partie prenante au protocole d'entente entre l'AEFO et le gouvernement, une stratégie d'action politique a été mise en place. Tous les conseils scolaires membres de l'AFOCSC ont adopté des résolutions exprimant un refus de payer pour quelque chose que nous n'avons pas négocié et réclamant auprès du MÉO des sommes additionnelles pour que l'on puisse s'acquitter de cette responsabilité.

Projet Accueil des nouveaux arrivants

Grace à une subvention de Patrimoine Canada, quatre organisations de langue française ont initié ce projet. Les partenaires sont l'AFOCSC, l'ACÉPO, le REPFO (regroupement ethnoculturel des parents francophones de l'Ontario) et PPE (Parents partenaires en éducation).

Le but du projet est d'inciter la participation active des parents issus de l'immigration à l'éducation de leurs enfants soit en se joignant au conseil de parents de l'école, à la table politique des conseils scolaires, etc. etc..

Des affiches et des cartes postales sous forme d'aimant seront distribuées dans toutes les écoles francophones de la province et un site WEB sera développé. Le lancement devra se faire dans le cadre de l'AGA de Parents partenaires en éducation (PPE) qui se tiendra les 31 mai 1er et 2 juin à Toronto.

Mémoire sur le financement

L'AFOCSC a remis au gouvernement son mémoire sur le financement. L'AFOCSC cherche pour tous ses conseils membres un financement équitable à celui de la majorité. Le document contient vingt-six recommandations qui ont comme but de faire connaître les besoins de financement essentiel à la livraison d'une éducation de qualité.

Dans le Centre-Sud-Ouest de la province, l'AFOCSC revendique un meilleur accès aux écoles sous utilisées par les conseils scolaires anglophones afin de fournir des locaux pour élèves de langue française car présentement il est difficile de sécuriser des lieux propices.

Cadre de référence de l'élève des écoles catholiques de l'Ontario : attentes et espoirs

En 2011, le Comité d'orientation en éducation catholique (COREC) a ciblé comme priorité le développement d'un cadre de référence de l'élève des écoles catholiques de l'Ontario.

Le COREC est constitué des partenaires responsables de l'éducation catholique de langue française en Ontario dont :

- l'Assemblée des évêques catholiques de l'Ontario (AECO)
- l'Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
- le Conseil ontarien des directions de l'éducation catholique (CODEC)
- l'Office provincial de l'éducation de la foi catholique de l'Ontario (OPECO)

Le COREC a préparé le « Cadre de référence

de l'élève des écoles catholiques de l'Ontario : attentes et espoirs » en consultation avec les représentants des communautés catholiques de l'Ontario.

Le Cadre renforce les attentes du Ministère de l'éducation et de la formation résumées dans la documentation provinciale relative au programme d'études et sont arrimées avec le Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations des écoles catholiques de langue anglaise. Pour les conseils catholiques de langue française, il servira à guider les membres de la Table scolaire dans l'élaboration de ressources, de projets et d'activités pertinents. Le personnel enseignant et les animateurs de la pastorale s'en inspireront pour la planification des programmes, la sélection des stratégies et l'élaboration d'activités d'apprentissage et d'évaluation qui répondent aux diverses habiletés et besoins d'apprentissage des élèves.

Le COREC encourage donc les élèves, les membres du personnel et la communauté scolaire à faire usage de ce document afin de guider l'éducation et la formation de la foi des élèves dans les écoles catholiques de langue française de l'Ontario.

Le document a été présenté formellement lors de l'assemblée annuelle de l'AFOCSC en mai 2013 à London.

XVe Congrès de l'AFOCSC à London

L'AFOCSC a tenu son Assemblée annuelle et congrès à London du 3 au 5 mai 2013. Le Père Thomas Rosica directeur du réseau Sel et Lumière était le conférencier d'honneur. Nous avons profité de la présence de la Ministre de l'Éducation Liz Sandals ainsi que de la Sous-ministre adjointe Janine Griffore. Mgr Marcel Damphousse a présidé la célébration Eucharistique le dimanche matin.

Comme toujours le prix d'Excellence en Éducation a été remis et cette année la récipiendaire est Lucie Guillemette du Conseil catholique du Sud-Ouest.

Changements au gouvernement Libéral

C'est le 25 janvier dernier que l'ancienne ministre de l'Éducation, Mme Kathleen Wynne, est élue à la direction du parti Libéral de l'Ontario et par ce fait même, est devenue la première femme Première ministre de la province le 11 février dernier.

Voulant peut-être démontrer aux enseignants et aux conseils scolaires qu'une nouvelle approche dans le dossier de la négociation pourrait voir le jour en province, Mme Wynne a opté pour un changement en nommant Mme Liz Sandals comme Ministre de l'Éducation

Déjà, les deux tentent de rebâtir la confiance dans le secteur. Les mots prononcés jusqu'à date sont encourageants, parmi lesquels :

- reconnaissance que le dernier processus de négociations n'était pas à la hauteur des attentes et qu'un nouveau processus avec des règles claires et précises sont à venir,
- maintien des quatre systèmes d'éducation,
- reconnaissance des droits des francophones, surtout en matière d'éducation postsecondaire avec la création d'une institution franco-ontarienne dans le Centre-Sud-Ouest de la province.

Événements à signaler

- 26 au 28 septembre 2013: 66e congrès de

l'ACELF à Régina, SK

- 24 au 26 octobre 2013: 23e congrès de la FNCSF à Victoria, BC
- 3 au 5 octobre 2013: 3e échange national de l'éducation catholique de l'ACCEC à Ottawa
- 11 au 13 avril 2014: 16e congrès et assemblée générale annuelle de l'AFOCSC à Ottawa

AFOCSC

Strategic planning for 2014-2019

AFOCSC has begun work on its strategic plan which will set its priorities and outline its activities to carry the association through the next five years, from 2014-2019. The services of Le Centre canadien de leadership en éducation (Canadian centre for leadership in education) were retained in order to lead the process, which includes a consultation of the member board trustees. An online survey has been provided to facilitate the process. Adoption of the new strategic plan is scheduled for March 2014.

Labour Relations – Dispute Resolution procedure

Since the imposition of collective agreements by the former Minister of Education, AFOCSC is looking to assure its rightful place in the cases where the dispute resolution mechanism has been invoked. However, since we are a small organization, our lack of resources, financial and human, make it difficult for us to carry out our responsibilities in this matter.

Because this process was imposed by the Ministry and in which neither the Association nor the Boards were a party to the negotiations between AEFO and the government, a political action strategy was put in place. All the member Boards of AFOCSC have adopted a resolution expressing their refusal to pay for something that they did not negotiate and in addition requesting that the Ministry provide additional sums in order to carry out this mandate.

Project – Welcome and integration of immigrant parents

With the help of a grant from Heritage Canada, four French language organizations initiated this project. The four partners are: AFOCSC, ACÉPO, REPFO(ethnocultural francophone parents of Ontario) and PPE(parent partners in education).

The project goal is to invite the active participation of immigrant parents in the education of their children either by joining a school council, by becoming active at the school board level, etc.

Posters and post cards in magnet form will be distributed in all francophone schools in the province and a website will be developed. The formal launch will take place during PPE's (Parents Partners in Education) AGM which will be held in Toronto from May 31 to June 2, 2013.

Brief on funding

AFOCSC submitted a brief to government on funding of French language education which contained 26 recommendations. The brief outlines

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Provincial Reports

FROM PAGE 11

the need for equitable funding for all its member boards.

In Central South West Ontario, AFOCSC seeks a better access to underutilized or surplus schools of Anglophone boards in order to house French language students because at present it is very difficult to secure appropriate accommodations in the area.

Frame of reference for the student in Catholic schools in Ontario: hopes and expectations

In 2011 the orientation committee for catholic education (COREC in French) targeted the development of a frame of reference for the student in a catholic school in Ontario.

The COREC is composed of partners responsible for Catholic francophone education in Ontario:

- The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (AECO);
- AFOCSC – Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires francophones;
- The Ontario Council of the Directors of Catholic Education (CODEC); and
- The provincial office of Catholic education of the faith of Ontario

This frame of reference is in harmony with the Ministry of Education's program of studies and with the Ontario School Graduate Expectations developed for and used in English Catholic schools in Ontario. It will serve as a guide for the educational table in developing resources, projects and activities. It will help teachers and pastoral workers in program planning, in the selection of appropriate learning strategies and activities along with evaluation strategies to better respond to the various abilities and needs of the students.

The document was formally presented to the trustees at AFOCSC's AGM held in London this past May.

AFOCSC'S 15th AGM in London

AFOCSC held its 15th AGM and convention in London from May 3-5, 2013. Father Thomas Rosica, Executive Director of Salt and Light, was the keynote speaker. We were honoured by the presence of the Minister of Education Liz Sandals as well as the Assistant Deputy Minister Janine Griffore. Msgr Marcel Damphousse celebrated the Holy Eucharist on Sunday morning.

As always the award for Excellence in Catholic education was announced at the Saturday night banquet and the recipient this year is Lucie Guillemette from the Conseil catholique du Sud-Ouest.

Changes in the Liberal government

Last January 25, former Minister of Education, Kathleen Wynne, was elected as head of the Liberal Party of Ontario and consequently, officially became the first female Premier of the province beginning February 11.

Perhaps in order to show the teacher associations and school boards that a new approach in contract negotiations could be in the offering, Minister Wynne opted for change by naming Liz Sandals as Minister of Education.

Already the two are trying to re-establish confidence in the sector. Recent declarations sound promising and encouraging, among them:

- recognition that the last round of negotiations was not at the expected level and that a new process with clearer and more precise guidelines are forthcoming,

- maintaining the four school systems
- recognition of francophone rights, especially in the area of postsecondary education with the creation of an institution in the Centre-South-West portion of the province.

Coming events

- Sept. 26 to 28, 2013: ACELF convention in Regina, SK (Canadian association of French language education)
- Oct. 24 to 26, 2013: FNCSF convention in Victoria, BC (National federation of francophone school boards)
- Oct. 3 to 5, 2013: CCSTA's National Conversation Convention in Ottawa
- April 11 to 13, 2014: AFOCSC's 16th AGM in Ottawa

Atlantic Region

The most significant event this Spring for RCISA, AR has been the announcement by the Board of Directors for Our Lady of Schools of its suspension of operations at the end of the current school year.

In the tight circle of Catholic independent schools in the Atlantic Region, the closure of one of their number, even if it is a "small" school, affects everyone. Thus, when Chair Joni Ashley of Our Lady of Schools announced in late March that the school would not reopen in the coming September, the other schools felt the pain of that Board in coming to its decision. Perhaps it should give all of us in Catholic education pause to reflect on what goes into founding and operating a Catholic school in the region.

Much time and effort is expended in seeing the dream of a Catholic school come to fruition. First, there is the heart of the matter - the philosophy of education, the Faith perspective, under which the school will operate. The founders make this known in the community and based on the response a decision is made to go ahead with the project. A founding Board naturally projects a gradual increase in student numbers as the school becomes known in the community.

The establishment of a building to house the school requires significant Capital expenditures, unless a diocesan or parish building is available. Assuming that goal can be reached, the Board faces the challenge of gathering operating funds to pay its teachers, purchase textbooks, and purchase all the other items required to operate a school. In Atlantic Canada, student tuition and charitable donations are the sole sources of operating costs. Boards cannot afford to have deficits - in short, no one will cover them. There is no financial support from the provincial governments. And, apart from the much appreciated lease of buildings in certain cases, these are not on-going parish or diocesan financially supported schools.

In the case of Our Lady of Schools, the Board struggled with these various factors for the 11 years of its existence. Why? For whatever reason, not enough Catholic parents chose to register their children in the school. The factors are likely to be many - the Faith perspective offered by the school, the whole idea of paying tuition, contentedness with the public system, the school

site, and so on. Parents who wanted a Catholic school also had the long-established and significantly larger Sacred Heart as an option. Over the years, OLOS operated in the basement of a parish church; this year the school was flooded out in September and space was found in a mall, thanks to a charitable supporter. Looking ahead, the Board saw no realistic alignment between capital and operating costs and so was forced to make the tough decision to close.

In short, founding and operating a Catholic independent school in the Atlantic region is living life on the edge. Given that, it is not surprising that from time to time a school may be forced to close. (OLOS of Halifax now joins Holy Cross of St. Alban's, NL as Catholic independent schools in the last 12 years that have had to face closure.) The other schools of the region note the recent decision to close OLOS with regret. More importantly, they know and bow to the incredible commitment and effort that the members of that Board, its administrators and teachers have put into the school for some 11 years. Despite the outcome, they have accomplished much. All of us involved in Catholic education in this country can find fruitful reflection on this story of the closure of one small school in Atlantic Canada. For certain, OLOS will live on in the hearts and minds of the young who attended the school and those who have nurtured it and hope to find a way to reopen its doors in the coming years.

From an association perspective, OLOS will be sorely missed. Supportive from the beginning, the Board and administration of OLOS have been keen members of both RCISA, AR and CCSTA and have enthusiastically participated at a level well beyond their numbers.

Student Enrolment

Boards are preoccupied this spring with gauging student enrollment for the 2013-2014 school year. This past year has demonstrated that a school cannot count on retaining a healthy enrolment without assertive strategies within the school community and the community at large. Even then, as witnessed with the pending suspension of operations at Our Lady of Schools in Halifax, unforeseen circumstances can have a devastating effect. That said, the projected 2013-14 enrollment for the remaining four schools is positive.

Our Finances

Boards are equally preoccupied with finances. Debt is not easily paid off and the ever-rising costs of salaries and materials put great demand on the Boards. All schools project a balanced budget for the 2013-14 school year.

Celebrating World Catholic Education Day

Schools have in one way or another marked World Catholic Education Day. The poster and suggestions provided through the CCSTA website was most helpful.

Events

This spring sees the students of our schools engaged in the usual community oriented programs - among them, Kiwanis and Rotary Music Festivals (all schools), Shakespeare drama (Romeo and Juliet at Our Lady of Schools), national debating rounds (Sacred Heart School of Halifax), environment cleanup and awareness programs

Chaplain's Corner

A New Hope

Since the election of Pope Francis on March 13, a new hope seems to bring vigour to the Church. The pope's simplicity and his desire to return to what is essential have, in some way, awakened Catholics all over the world. They are numerous, young and old, who since his election have publicly reaffirmed their faith in God and in the Catholic Church. How is it that this man has touched so many hearts? Many will say, "It is because of his humanity!"

- He began by saying, "Buonasera," or, "Good evening," to those waiting for him on St Peter's Square and then dared to ask for their prayers;
- He paid for his hotel room himself. He carried and laid flowers at the feet of the Virgin Mary's statue himself;
- He chose to continue living with others at St Martha's Residence and not make the papal apartments his residence; and
- He kissed children and physically challenged persons, visited his confreres at the hospital, celebrated mass with prisoners....

Those are but a few gestures, certainly human and Christian gestures, which were reported by the media and created much astonishment.

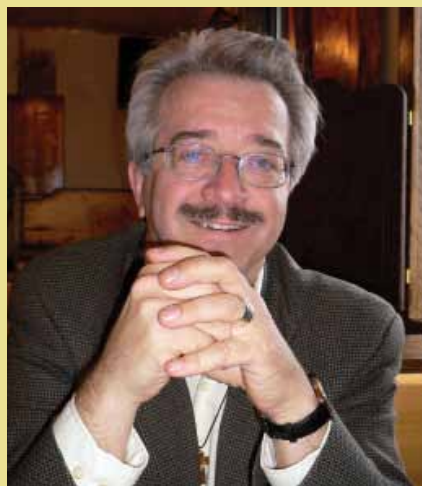
There is, however, one particular sentence he spoke that I feel bears repeating. It was less publicized but was reported by the French Cardinal Barbarin. At the moment his election, as the cardinals were awaiting his response, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio expressed himself in these words, "I am aware that I am a sinful man... yet, as you invest me with this responsibility, I accept." What words of consolation for all those who are entrusted with a position of responsibility: A public mission!

As he says yes, he affirms without any hesitation his personal poverties, his fragility and notwithstanding them and with them, he accepts the mission that is entrusted upon him. What a contrast with the expectations of a secular society who seem to demand perfect people, without weaknesses, without any past mistakes to undertake public responsibilities.

If a sinful man fears not to accept the responsibility to become pope, should we not understand that sinful people, who are quite aware of their personal poverties, their fragilities, have accepted and are still accepting responsibilities in our school system? Should this recognition of one's weaknesses not be an essential condition to exercise a leadership function in the Catholic schools of Canada and of the world? If not, how can one understand that without the element of forgiveness there can be no true education?

The concept of Zero Tolerance can, under no circumstance, eradicate the necessity of forgiveness in education. If forgiveness is eliminated, our schools will cease to be Catholic. Let us educate our children to discover that they are sinful men and women, and that by recognizing this, they will better themselves. They will trust in the love of God and will fear not in accepting the important public responsibilities that one day will be entrusted upon them.

1. Zenith, Le moment de l'acceptation du pape François « #13031407 », March 14, 2013



Fr. Rémi Lessard
CCSTA Chaplain/Aumônier

une nouvelle énergie

Depuis l'élection du pape François, le 13 mars dernier, une nouvelle énergie semble avoir imprégné notre Église. La simplicité de ce dernier et son désir d'un retour à l'essentiel paraissent avoir revigoré les catholiques du monde entier. Plusieurs personnes, jeunes et âgées, osent depuis son élection affirmer publiquement leur appartenance à la foi chrétienne et à l'Église catholique. Qu'y a-t-il en cet homme qui touche tant les cœurs? Plusieurs diront : c'est son humanité!

- Commencer par dire « Buonasera » ou « Bonsoir » à ceux et celles qui l'attendaient sur la place Saint-Pierre et demander publiquement qu'on prie pour lui;
- Payer lui-même sa chambre d'hôtel, porter les fleurs et les déposer lui-même devant la statue de la Vierge Marie;
- Choisir de vivre avec d'autres à la Résidence Sainte-Marthe et non dans les appartements du pape; et
- Embrasser les enfants et les handicapés, visiter ses confrères à l'hôpital, célébrer la messe avec les prisonniers.

Voilà quelques-uns des gestes, pourtant très humains et très chrétiens, qu'ont rapportés les médias avec éclats et qui ont suscité tant d'étonnements.

Il y a cependant une de ses paroles qui est moins connue et qui fut rapportée par le cardinal français Barbarin. Au moment d'accepter la mission d'évêque de Rome et par conséquent de Pape, le cardinal Jorge Bergoglio s'exprima ainsi : « J'ai conscience d'être un homme pécheur... mais puisqu'on me donne cette charge je l'accepte. » Quelle parole consolante pour tous ceux et pour toutes celles qui détiennent un poste d'autorité, une mission publique!

Il affirme au moment de son acceptation, sa pauvreté, sa fragilité et malgré elle et avec elle, il accepte la mission qu'on lui confie. Quel contraste avec les attentes d'une société qui semble ne vouloir que des personnes parfaites, sans faiblesses, sans erreurs passées pour assumer des responsabilités publiques!

Si un homme pécheur ne craint pas d'assumer la responsabilité de pape, ne devrions-nous pas comprendre que des hommes et des femmes pécheurs connaissant leur fragilité ont assumé et assument encore la responsabilité d'œuvrer en milieu scolaire? Reconnaître sa pauvreté sa fragilité, n'est pas là une condition essentielle pour exercer une fonction de leadership dans les écoles catholiques du Canada et d'ailleurs. Sinon comment comprendre qu'il n'y a pas de véritable éducation sans l'exercice du pardon?

La tolérance zéro est un concept qui ne peut en aucune circonstance enray-er la nécessité du pardon en éducation. Sans l'exercice du pardon, nos écoles cesseront d'être catholiques. Éduquons plutôt nos enfants à découvrir qu'ils sont des hommes et des femmes pécheurs et que cette reconnaissance leur permettra de s'améliorer, de faire confiance à l'amour de Dieu et de ne pas craindre d'assumer à leur tour d'importantes responsabilités publiques.

1. Zenit, Le moment de l'acceptation du pape François <#13031407>, 14 mars 2013

Please mark these dates on your planning calendar:

• Oct. 3-5, 2013
Catholic Education: A
National Conversation
Ottawa, Ontario

• June 5-7, 2014
CCSTA AGM/Convention
Kingston, Ontario

• June 13-15, 2015
CCSTA AGM/Convention
St. John's, Newfoundland