

THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the President

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present this annual report for the year 2000-2001.

Once again this year has been an exceptionally busy and profitable year for the Council. We have had measured success in the Education area in terms of maintaining Catholic religion in the schools and again measured success in the Health and Social Services area, in that some of the original proposals of the Clair Commission were not retained in the final Report recommendations. Our briefs to the Government in these areas along with our participation with other community groups, we believe were helpful in forcing the Government to avoid those recommendations that would have been particularly harmful to our Catholic and English communities in Montreal.

Our Board over the last half-year has spent considerable time preparing a brief which we presented in March to the Estates General on the Status of the French Language in Quebec. We were fortunate to have had a complete article by our Executive Director published in the Gazette following our presentation. I would like also to thank the Catholic Times for their complete coverage of that particular event as well as ongoing support of our efforts.

I have had the pleasant experience over this past year to visit, along with the Executive Director, many of our parishes. Our purpose was to inform them of our activities but also hear their concerns. It has been a very informative and enriching experience and I hope this activity will continue next year.

With the Board's understanding, I have had the privilege of serving three years as President. I want to thank all members of the Board for their hard work and support. I want to wish the new President all the best and offer my continued support. To Martin Murphy, our Executive Director, thank you for your dedication and work and to Suzanne Brown, our Executive Secretary, thank you for your continued hard work as well.

I know there is a community which counts on the Council to speak on its behalf, so to all of you **thank you** and I hope you will stay closely involved in our activities.

God bless.

John Walker
President

ESCC COMMITTEES 2001 - 2002

Executive

DAVID DUSSAULT
President

PAMELA BRIGHT
Vice-President

FRANCIS D'SOUZA
Treasurer

ANNE GARLAND
Secretary

JOHN WALKER
Past-President

Education

- Monitors policy & legislation;
- Facilitates communication among leaders;
- Develops and articulates unified positions;
- Ensures English Catholic representation on government bodies.

Chairperson: Pamela Bright

Membership: Spencer Boudreau, Grant Fabes, Fr. Eric Maclean, Konrad Muncs, Joseph Petraglia, Joe Zemanovich.

Social Issues

- Monitors legislation in the areas of poverty, income security, and family policy;
- Prepares position papers consonant with Catholic values.

Chairperson: John Murphy

Secretary:

Membership: Warren Allmand, Carole Mathieu, Robert Wilkins

Communications

- Improves methods of communication: parishes, media, AGM, Rally, Annual Report, E-Mail, and Web Page;
- Develops liaison with community leadership and its resources.

Membership: Board of Directors

Health & Social Services

- Ensures that English-speaking Montrealers have access to services (especially the elderly, the vulnerable & those who have special needs);
- Seeks to promote working relationships with parishes and local healthcare institutions.
- Ensures that Catholic values are promoted and that institutions identified with the English-speaking Catholic community continue to be identified as such.

Chairperson: Dennis Languay

Membership: Zenny Bryniawsky, David Dussault, Afric Eustace, Terry Meehan, Lorraine Torpy.

Rally/AGM 2002

- Organizes Rally and Annual General Meeting to affirm the dynamic and positive aspects of our community.

Chairperson: Anne Garland

Finance

- Reviews monthly financial statements;
- Prepares budget proposals;
- Monitors investments.

Chairperson: Francis D'Souza

Membership: Suzanne Brown, Karen Greschner.

Advisory

- Provides continuity and enhances the strength of the Council;
- Recommends names of candidates for election to the board;
- Offers advice on issues affecting the community;
- Assists in fundraising activities.

Chairperson: Patrick Rourke

Membership: Gail Campbell-Tucker, Eamon Dillon, Margaret Lefebvre, Eddie Leschiutta, Don Myles, Neil McKenty, Daniel O'Brien, Robert Rice, Claire Robinson, Harold Thuringer, John Walker (ex-officio), Fr. John Walsh.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Education

In June, 2000, the Government of Quebec adopted Law 118, an Act amending various legislative provisions respecting education as regards confessional matters. Listed below are some of the key provisions:

- As of July 1, 2000, all Quebec public schools became non-confessional. In addition, public schools are no longer permitted to undertake a specific educational project of a religious nature.
- The Catholic and Protestant Committees and the positions of Associate Deputy-Minister for the Catholic Faith and for the Protestant Faith were abolished. These were replaced by a Religious Affairs Committee comprised of thirteen members: four parents, four educators, four experts in matters of religion and philosophy and one representative of the Ministry. Its mandate is to advise the Minister of Education on any matter relating, in particular, to the place of religion in schools and approve the confessional aspects of certain programs of studies of a confessional nature.
- An Office of Religious Affairs was established and assigned to the Ministry re. all matters dealing with religion in schools, including policy, planning, evaluation and information.
- The following table illustrates the teaching and support services offered to students:

Teaching services at the elementary level

| | |
|--|---|
| September 2000 and in subsequent years | Same choices as before |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moral education• Catholic moral and religious instruction• Protestant moral and religious instruction |

Teaching services at the secondary level

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--|
| September 2000 | Cycle One and Cycle Two | Same choices as before |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moral education• Catholic moral and religious instruction• Protestant moral and religious instruction |
| September 2001 | Cycle One | Same choices as in September 2000 With the authorization and approval of the Minister, and subject to the conditions determined by him, Catholic religious and moral instruction and Protestant moral and religious education may be replaced by one of the following programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A locally developed ecumenical program (Christian traditions) |

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A locally developed ethics and religious culture program |
| | Cycle Two | In either case, the locally developed program must be offered as an option along with the moral education program |
| September 2002 | Cycle One | Same choices as in September 2001 AND experimentation with an ethics and religious culture program in certain schools |
| | Cycle Two | Same choices as in September 2001 |
| | | Common ethics and religious culture program in all schools |

Spiritual care and guidance and community involvement service

| | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| September 2000 | Elementary level Same services as before <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic pastoral animation • Protestant religious animation | Secondary level Same services as before Catholic pastoral animation Protestant religious animation |
| September 2001 | Same services as in September 2000 | Spiritual care and guidance and community involvement service |
| September 2002 | Spiritual care and guidance and community involvement service | |

The provisions of this Act which grant rights and privileges to a religious confession (Catholics and Protestants), shall operate notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph a of Section 2 and Section 15 of the Constitution Act, 1982 and Sections 3 and 10 of the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms. Section 44 referring to Section 727 of the *Education Act* shields the Act from judicial attack if anyone were to challenge these provisions on the basis that one's freedom of religion and equality rights provided for in the Charter were violated.

The draft *Régime Pédagogique* is now the subject for consultation in the education milieu. We will address the issues of proposed reduction in teaching time, professional development, religious observances, and the teacher education programs with the Minister of Education, the Official Opposition critic for Education, the President of the Religious Affairs Committee and the Faculty of Education at McGill.

Health & Social Services

In September, 2000, the English Speaking Catholic Council presented its views to the Public Forum on the financing and organization of the public health and social services system in Quebec. At that time, we expressed the view that the single most important concern for English-speaking communities across the province is access to quality health and social services in their own language. This was corroborated later when the Missisquoi Institute released survey results of a poll conducted by the Centre de Recherche sur l'opinion publique (CROP), in which 97% of

respondents ranked access to health and social services in the English language as being of the highest importance among a list of issues identified.

In our brief, we acknowledged that there are new imperatives that require adaptation, coordination, collaboration and communication. But we also reminded the Commission that our health care system is based on the principle of universality whereby all services are accessible to all citizens without discrimination and is reflected in the legislative guarantees providing for access to services in English. As laudable as “efficiency” is as an objective, language is an essential tool in “effective” provision of health and social services where people are vulnerable and require care delivered with empathy and understanding.

We rejected the notion of a rigid territorial model that would cause a restriction of access to services outside of a defined territory. Instead, we advocated a flexible model of organization of basic services to respond to established needs in a particular milieu, in particular the need for greater support for the English-speaking elderly in community institutions providing home-care.

We also urged the Commission to ensure that any option that would propose the reorganization of services under a single authority not have as its effect the diminishing of the role of existing community resources and institutions serving English-speaking communities. We insisted that in any proposed model the client must have the right to choose his/her doctor and that the doctor, mindful of the Access Plans, has the right to refer clients to services outside his/her defined territory. We supported the principle that in the allocation of budgets, “money must follow the client” and not be assigned on a territorial basis.

The Clair Commission published its report in January, 2001. Among its recommendations, the following are considered major issues requiring particular attention:

1. Rather than have elections for membership to Boards of Health and Social Services institutions, representatives will be nominated by the Minister directly. Will the Minister appoint English-speaking persons to represent the English-speaking communities? The Ministry proposed to control budgets of all health and social services institutions. These are indications that Quebec’s Health Ministry is attempting to return to centralization.
2. In its recommendation of the family doctor being replaced by a team of doctors (i.e. the patient does not choose his/her doctor), there is concern that in the outlying regions there may not be bilingual doctors to serve the English-speaking community.
3. The third concern is the recommendation for the creation of a new insurance plan for the elderly with a loss of autonomy to receive care at home and to be financed by a new compulsory contribution (i.e. new tax).

The English Speaking Catholic Council is a member of the Quebec Alliance of Retirees and Seniors Associations (formerly Seniors Coalition). The Association (French and English) works to protect the rights of seniors and maintain universality and accessibility of our health and social programs, including homecare, medicare, housing and transportation.

The Council is also a member of the Coalition on Medication Insurance, one of 209 groups across the Province that is continuing its campaign to ensure the full integration of medication into our universal public health-care system.

In December, 1999, the then Minister of Health and Social Services, Pauline Marois, confirmed that the five-year agreement with the Federal Government that expired on March 31, 1999, would not be renewed. The Federal Government had budgeted a financial contribution of approximately \$500,000 per year for the next five years to Quebec's initiatives promoting access to health and social services for the English-speaking population in their own language.

The Minister assured the population in the National Assembly of its commitment to provide resources to implement the Access Plans. Whereas the annual total allocation would have been approximately \$1 million had the Agreement been renewed, the total allocation for measures to support access to English-language services now totals only \$718,000.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) of which the English Speaking Catholic Council is a member, has written to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Sheila Copps, recommending that the \$2.5 million her Department put aside for the inter-governmental accord be re-directed to organizations of the English-speaking community. Many communities are aging and infrastructure is weakened by the loss of youth and the care-giving generation. We have asked for a meeting with the Minister in the hope that the Federal Government will reallocate these resources in support of measures to promote greater access to health and social services in English.

The English Speaking Catholic Council is a founding member together with the Holland Centre, Butters Foundation and St. Brigid's Home, of the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN), incorporated in 2000, with offices in the Holland Centre in Quebec City and in the Queen Elizabeth Complex in Montreal. It has established a portal website (www.chssn.org). This online community resource network will include:

- database of all health and social service institutions in Quebec in a regional format;
- services identified in all access programs for the sixteen administrative regions;
- the list of documents which were translated into English by the ESCC Translation Project of \$120,000 granted by the Department of Canadian Heritage in March 2000;
- membership consists of Martin Murphy, Chairman, Richard Walling of the Holland Centre, Louis Hanrahan of Saint Brigid's Home, Kathy Dodson of Metis Beach, Erin Mallory of the Townshippers' Association, Eric Maldoff of Heenan Blaikie, Ron Creary of Butters Foundation, Sheila Laursen of the YMCA of Montreal, Charlotte Dousett of Trois-Rivières and Jim Carter as Coordinator.

The CHSSN has been mandated by the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) to lead this process and contribute to the preparation of a memorandum of understanding in accordance with Health Canada's mandate in virtue of Part VII of the Official Languages Act. Projects submitted include:

- Population Health Fund – development of a data model that will generate comprehensive information on the health, well-being and demographic characteristics of English-speaking people in every administrative region of Quebec;
- Meeting the needs of deaf persons;
- Long-term psychiatric patient care needs;
- 1-800 Info-line;
- The Montérégie Partners for Community Development (resource center to serve 127,000 English-speakers of the region).
- ESCC Translation Project – Phase II
- Patient and Community Support Network, Phase II
- Support services website on mental health
- Alcohol and drug abuse program

The Provincial Consultative Committee entrusted with advising the Government on all matters related to health and social services in the English Language was recently named by Minister Marois. Members are Richard Walling, Chairman, Barbra Gold, Arthur Sandborn, Sheila Laursen, Michael Udy, Kathy Dodson, Marisa Tessier, Charlene Graham, Stella Kennedy, Henry Coopersmith and Kathy Van Bronswyk. Its first meeting with the Minister was held on February 23, 2001.

A Federal Consultative Committee for the English-speaking minority community was established in the Fall of 2000 by the Minister of Health, Allan Rock. Eric Maldoff of Heenan Blaikie and Marie Fortier, Assistant Deputy Minister of Health Canada, are co-chairpersons. The other members are: James Carter, JoAnn Jones, James MacDougall, James Warbanks, Dr. William Rowe, Louis Hanrahan, Liane Gagnon, Marion Standish, and Christina Richards. Its mandate is principally to provide advice to the Minister of Health on ways of enhancing the vitality of English-speaking communities in Quebec and to support their development. Its first meeting was held in Montreal on February 15, 2001.

The fifth YMCA Provincial Conference on accessibility of health and social services in English “Development through Partnerships” will take place in Montreal on October 12-13, 2001.

Social Issues

In November, 1989, the House of Commons unanimously resolved to seek to achieve the goal of eliminating poverty among Canadian children by the year 2000.

In January, 2001, in the Speech from the Throne to open the First Session of the 37th Parliament of Canada, it was announced that “Canadians must undertake another national project to ensure that no Canadian child suffers the debilitating effects of poverty” and declared that the Government of Canada will take immediate action with its partners where the challenges are greatest, viz., single parents and their children who often face special challenges overcoming poverty; child support, custody and access in the case of family breakdown; support to parents and caregivers in times of family crisis.

In February, 2001, the members of the Social Affairs Commission of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), released an open letter addressed to the Members of Parliament, entitled: “The Common Good or Exclusion: A Choice for Canadians”, urging all federal politicians as a guiding priority of political and legislative commitments, to work for the common good and toward ending economic exclusion. They noted the squandered opportunity for social justice where in a wealthy country in its seventh consecutive year of economic growth, “such negative performance cries out to heaven for redress.” There is a growing alarming gap between rich and poor in Canada.

Campaign 2000, a non-partisan, cross-Canada coalition of over eighty-five national, provincial and community partner organizations recently published a Report Card on Child Poverty in Canada, noting that on the 11th anniversary of the unanimous resolution in the Parliament of Canada, a total of 1,338,000 (or one out of every five) still lived in poverty.

A Coalition advocating a law to eradicate poverty, supported by the Assembly of Bishops of Quebec in May, 2000, petitioned the National Assembly of Quebec to adopt legislation that would have the effect of saying NO to poverty, destitution and marginalization.

On March 22, 2001, Bernard Landry, Premier of Quebec, in his speech at the opening session of the 2nd session of the 36th legislature, made a commitment on behalf of the Government, that combating poverty will be a veritable obsession and promised measures would be introduced in the short, medium and long terms, directed to alleviate this suffering and despair.

The English Speaking Catholic Council is in the process of developing a portrait on the issue of child poverty and that affecting seniors in the Montreal area, in anticipation of meetings which we hope to have with:

- Premier Landry, who in March, 2001 committed himself to take particular care to listen and engage in meaningful dialogue with the English-speaking community and its representatives;
- Members of the Liberal Opposition
- Members of Parliament, especially the President of the Quebec Liberal Caucus
- The Social Affairs Commission of Canadian Catholic Bishops (CCCCB)
- The Assembly of Bishops of Quebec

Cultural Issues

The five-year Framework Agreement for the purpose of supporting and assisting the development and enhancing the vitality of the English-language minority communities of Quebec between the Government of Canada and the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), of which the English Speaking Catholic Council is one of the twenty members, is now in its third year. The members of the Management Working Groups (its Executive) are: Hugh Maynard, Chairman; Martin Murphy, Vice-Chairman; Erin Mallory, Treasurer; Helen Walling, Secretary; Cornella Maurice. Deborah Hook is Executive Director, located at its Head Office in Quebec City. The following is a list of some of the current major initiatives of the QCGN:

1. Project Funding Protocol – demand totals \$3.9 million
2. Program funding Protocol - demand totals \$4.8 million
3. Liaison with francophone minority communities
4. Information Technology Working Group
5. Participation in the Federal Public Service
6. Young Canada Works Program
7. Interdepartmental Partnerships with Official Languages Communities (IPOLC)
 - \$5.5 million per year for 5 years.
 - 28 federal departments implementing Section 41 of Official Languages Act
8. Translation Project \$120,000
9. CBC public consultation
10. Due Diligence
11. Hôpital Montfort – Court date at Ontario Appeal Court – May, 2001
12. Communications Plan Project
13. Distance Education
14. Canada-Quebec Agreement (Health)
15. Joint Standing Committee on Official Languages
16. Exploratory meetings with Human Resources Development Canada – 3 years, \$21 million to implement strategic plan for both linguistic communities (economic development)

In March, 2001, the ESCC presented its brief to public hearings on the Estates General on the situation and future of the French language in Quebec. 2001 being the year designated by the United Nations as the “International Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations”, the Council expressed the hope for greater dialogue and understanding among all people in Quebec. As Catholics, we are taught that love for one's culture, community and country is a value to be fostered and that our sense of ourselves rooted in a place and people are valuable anchors for individuals and families. And we are also reminded by Pope John Paul II in his message on *Dialogue between Cultures* in January, 2001 of the need “to confront intelligently the problems posed by new social configurations, accelerated migration and people of different cultures and civilizations living side by side.” Surely in Quebec we are in the vanguard in this respect. We have the opportunity and the obligation to provide the world with new, hopeful models and principles by which to respond to these challenges.

The brief proposed the following recommendations:

- **That** the National Assembly act upon the objective stated in the preamble of Law 101:

“the National Assembly intends to pursue this objective in a spirit of fairness and open-mindedness, respectful of the institutions of the English-speaking community of Quebec, and respectful of the ethnic minorities, whose valuable contribution to the development of Quebec it readily acknowledges...”

by promoting greater respect for linguistic minorities and by providing legal protection for their institutions.

- **That** the Government of Quebec proclaim Section 23 (1) (a) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- **That** current rules for access to English-language CEGEPs be retained.
- **That** guarantees for access to health services and social services in the English language for the English-speaking population, stipulated in the *Act respecting Health Services and Social Services* be maintained.
- **That** in view of the fact that the current language legislation is not consistent with Quebec's assertion that it is an open, tolerant and democratic society, English and other languages must also be permitted as an expression of Quebec's identity as an inclusive society.
- **That** municipalities across Quebec be permitted to provide English-language services when their minority population is over 10%.
- **That** the new City of Montreal be required to provide services in the English-language to English-speaking citizens living in its territory.

A Quebec that sets itself the objective of respecting its minorities would recognize the historic presence of a multidimensional English-speaking community throughout the province, would show concern about its continuing decline and would adopt measures to promote its renewal. There is a need to enact a comprehensive social contract for English-speaking Quebecers, including legal protection for their community institutions. To attain this objective, **the English Speaking Catholic Council proposes that the Government of Quebec amend the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms in order to formalize and codify Quebec's democratic responsibilities towards the English-speaking community.** Such an initiative, would provide a context in which all our recommendations could be integrated. At the same time, it would be an effective way to complete and complement Law 101 and would lay the foundation for continuing and productive dialogue among all linguistic communities in this province. It would create an enduring mechanism for ensuring the rights of the English-speaking minority and other linguistic minorities in Quebec. It would send a clear signal across this continent and around the world that Quebec is ready to take its rightful place as a welcoming member within the North American community.

Nominations/Succession

The ESCC's Nominations/Succession Committee's mandate exercised by the Advisory Committee is to ensure that the by-laws governing the membership of the Board of Directors are respected. The process includes the search for candidates, representative of the community, for election to the Board, keeping in mind the expertise and experience that will enable the Council to meet the challenges facing our community. It must also assure the succession of the Council's Executive Officers.

Finance

An annual budget and regular financial reports for the Board of Directors are prepared. It is expected that the ESCC should build a reserve (a working capital reserve) to correspond to one year's operating budget in order for the Council to continue to function without interruption from one fiscal year to the next. The Treasurer meets regularly with the Executive staff to review accounting and reporting procedures and to ensure that the financial resources of the ESCC are effectively managed.

The Council's audited financial statements for the period April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001 are presented in the next section of this report.

We wish to acknowledge with gratitude those organizations which have demonstrated confidence in the effectiveness and promise of the Council by financially supporting its activities, especially the Pillars Trust Fund, other community foundations, several members of the National Assembly and the Department of Canadian Heritage, thus permitting the Council to continue its work directed to the enrichment of a vibrant community.

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee established in 1995, fulfills a supportive role for the English Speaking Catholic Council by providing continuity and enhancing the strength of the Council. It serves as a link for access to senior business and government officials and provides input on issues affecting the community.

To a limited extent, as a non-profit charitable organization, the ESCC may engage in non-partisan activities to influence law, policy and public opinion on matters related to its mandate. In this respect, the Council believes it has a responsibility to take a stand on issues when they infringe on democracy, social justice and related Catholic values.

* * *

This has been another rewarding year for me personally and I am very grateful for all the encouragement and support I have received from so many people in the community: The English Speaking Catholic Council's Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and in particular, John Walker, our President and Suzanne Brown, our Executive Secretary; Committee Chairpersons and members; parish priests; the staff of the Catholic Times, Catholic Community Services, and the Office of English Pastoral Services.

The social, economic and political issues before us are complex and challenging but I have every confidence that the Holy Spirit will be ever present to guide us and give us strength in our efforts directed to the development of a vibrant community.

Martin P. Murphy
Executive Director