

# THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

## Message From the President

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the annual report for the year 2001-2002.

This past year has been a typically busy one. The Council has been very active in a multitude of endeavors. We have continued to vigorously pursue our position regarding the right of every student to choose every year from Grade 1 to Secondary III, Catholic moral and religious instruction, as provided for in Article 5 of the *Education Act*. We have sought to understand the official position of our diocese, while reminding the present government that it is in contradiction of its own legislation in this matter.

Health and Social Services continue to be of great importance to the Council. To this end, the Council prepared a brief outlining its position on shaping the future of health care in Canada. This brief was successfully presented in Quebec City to the **Romanow Commission**. On the provincial level we have continued to keep abreast of Health and Social Service legislation in an ongoing effort to ensure that English-speaking minority rights are respected in this crucial area.

On April 30<sup>th</sup> the Council presented its biennial celebration of the English speaking Catholic Community with Rally 2002 entitled: **Building A Better World**. Our congratulations to Anne Garland and her Committee for this well organized, beautifully presented, and very well attended event.

The Council would like to express its gratitude to the Pillars Trust, to the Department of Canadian Heritage, and to a number of other community organizations for their very generous support. We should also like to thank the **Catholic Times** for their coverage and support of all our efforts.

And finally, I would like to express our appreciation for the fine work of our Executive Director, Martin Murphy, and our Executive Secretary, Suzanne Brown. The healthy state of our organization is due in large part to their dedication and sound management.

I wish all of you a wonderful summer, and I look forward to the challenges we will face together next year.

Sincerely,

David Dussault  
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.

Membership: Spencer Boudreau, Pamela Bright, Grant Fabes, Fr. Eric Maclean, Konrad Muncs.

## Social Issues

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

Membership: Warren Allmand, Carole Mathieu, John Murphy, 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, Afric Eustace, Lorraine Torpy.

## **Rally**

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

Chairperson: Anne Garland

Membership: Suzanne Brown, Gail Campbell-Tucker, Terry Meehan, Martin Murphy.

## **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.

Chairperson: Patrick Rourke

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

# SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

## Education

- In May 2001, the English Speaking Catholic Council brought to the attention of the then Minister of Education, François Legault, that the draft regulation governing the basic school organization for 2002-2003 did not fully respect the law. It proposed that religious education be offered from Grade 1 to Secondary II, whereas Article 5 of the Education Act gives “every student, every year, the right to choose between Catholic or Protestant moral and religious instruction or moral instruction, from Grade 1 to Secondary III inclusively.

In addition to the ESCC, the Superior Council of Education, the Assembly of Bishops of Quebec, the Association des parents catholiques du Québec and the Religious Affairs Committee established in law to advise the Minister on any matter related to these programs of studies, all communicated that same message to the Minister.

In July 2001, the Cabinet adopted a decree that limits the option to choose religious education from Grade 1 to Secondary II. This was a breathtaking deceptive turnaround from the Minister’s own declarations in public documents and from longstanding Government commitments to parents and community groups.

The Executive Director wrote an article on this subject that was published in *The Gazette* and *Le Devoir* as an op-ed in early January. As well, Martin Murphy wrote to one hundred and twenty-five members of the National Assembly asking for their support to have a new decree issued that would conform to the law.

In November 2001, the Minister advised public and private educational authorities that he is willing to allow Boards to postpone the application of the July decree until 2003. This will allow schools to continue to offer Catholic or Protestant religious instruction or moral instruction as a compulsory subject at the Secondary III level in 2002-2003.

On March 29, 2002, at a meeting of community representatives in Quebec City with Premier Landry, Martin Murphy raised the issue of the decree that does not conform to Article 5 of la loi sur l’instruction publique. The Premier expressed surprise and requested a report that was provided to him that same afternoon. MNA Yvon Marcoux, Official Opposition Critic for Education, continues his efforts to see that the law duly passed in the National Assembly is respected integrally.

- The Theology Department at Concordia University now offers a Certificate in Pastoral Ministries (30 credits). The Certificate has two distinct parts. All students take four core courses (15 credits).

### **Core Theological Courses:**

- . Biblical Studies: (6 credits) Jewish Roots of Christian Faith, Pauline Scriptures, and Synoptic Gospels
- . Christology: (3 credits)
- . Church, Sacraments and Ministry: (3 credits)
- . Contemporary Catholicism: (3 credits)
- or
- To accommodate students from other Christian Faiths this course may be substituted with “Religious Pluralism in a Secular Culture”. (3 Credits)

Students then choose to specialize in one of two concentrations. (15 Credits)

### **Concentration A: Faith Development and Catechesis**

- . Models of Faith Development
- . Sacramental Theology
- . Issues in Moral Theology
- . Special Topics in Catechesis
- . Pastoral and Educational Praxis
- . Liturgical Catechesis
- . Principles of Youth Ministry

### **Concentration B: Parish and Community Ministry**

- . Issues in Moral Theology
- . Sacramental Theology
- . Introduction to Pastoral Ministry
- . Introduction to Pastoral Counselling
- . Family Ministry
- . Ministry for Peace and Justice
- . Ministry of Consolation
- . Topics in Christian Spirituality
- . Special Topics in Ministry
- . Pastoral and Educational Praxis

The Theology Department has also taken on the task of preparing both elementary and secondary school animators by offering the formation courses for spiritual animation and community involvement service in Quebec. It is now working with six of the nine English language school boards in Quebec.

In Quebec, it has always been recognized that moral and religious education is an essential part of one’s education at the elementary and secondary levels. Parents expect that schools will give their children a solid academic education and introduce them to the basic values of our society. Most of those basic values have their foundation in the Judeo-Christian tradition. It is evident that there still exists strong support for this academic formation. This year at the elementary level, 441 722 or 81.3% and at the secondary level, 211 437 or 58.1% of the

total student population in Quebec's public schools are taking Catholic Religious and Moral Instruction. Other students are enrolled in either Protestant Moral and Religious Education or Moral Education. 75.5% of the total school population is taking either Catholic or Protestant Instruction – not an insignificant interest!

In January 2002, Pope John Paul II spoke on the importance of religion in the formation of cultures and added: "To ignore Religion in Education is not only an "Error of Perspective", but also "a poor service to the truth about man". This strengthens our resolve as we continue the struggle.

## **Health & Social Services**

- In 1971, when our community institutions became an integral part of the new public health and social service system in Quebec, minority communities were assured that they could continue to participate democratically in the management and control of these now public institutions.

But on May 15, 2001, the then Minister of Health, Rémy Trudel, tabled Bill 28, legislation that would have centralized control of our institutions in the hands of the Quebec Government and its appointees. The proposed legislation, if adopted, would have destroyed democratic traditions of governance, reduce services adapted to community needs and disenfranchised citizens.

The English Speaking Catholic Council took the lead role in encouraging Quebecers to urge the Minister to amend the bill to ensure that direct, democratic governance remains a cornerstone of health and social service delivery in Quebec. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, the ESCC issued a statement that was endorsed by thirty-three organizations in the Province and it was published in The Gazette as an op-ed. This was followed-up with a press conference on June 5, 2001, at which fifty organizations participated, reaffirming our profound opposition to the draft bill and demanding that the Minister not proceed with the legislation. As a result of this campaign, Bill 28, prior to adoption by the National Assembly on June 21, 2001, was modified to allow elections to public health and social service institutions while retaining the original plan for the government to appoint directors to Regional Boards (Régie régionale de la santé et services sociaux - RRSSS).

- In response to the invitation from the Régie régionale de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal-Centre, the ESCC supported the nomination of Dr. Victor Goldbloom, proposed by the Quebec Jewish Congress (Quebec Region), to be designated as a member of the Board of Directors of the Regional Bureau (Montreal-Centre). In March 2002, Kathleen Weil was named President of the Régie régionale (Montreal-Centre) and Dr. Goldbloom was appointed to serve on that Board as well.
- In December 2001, the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) representing the leadership of twenty English-speaking Quebec minority-language organizations wrote to Gene Bracewell, Chairman of the Canadian Studies Committee of the Shriners' Hospital for Sick Children, in response to Imperial Potentate K. Smith's remarks that the Shriners'

Hospital should be moved out of Montreal because “families are receiving inadequate services in English and because of fear the institution would end up in a foreign country.” The QCGN deplored Mr. Smith’s comments and urged the Chairman to ignore Mr. Smith’s ill-considered remarks. The ESCC endorsed this position.

- The Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN) brings together the experience, creativity and expertise of community resources, associations and public institutions concerned with the health and well-being of Quebec’s English-speaking communities. It now has thirty active member organizations. It launched its portal-website ([www.chssn.org](http://www.chssn.org)) in March 2002. There are three major activities for 2002-2003:
  1. Creation of “Community Resource Access”, the integration of 200 to 400 community resources providing English-language services into an outline interactive mapping feature presenting all entitled services in English provided by public institutions (11 [demochssn.org](http://demochssn.org));
  2. Creation of “Net Link”, an online newsletter and interactive forum linking the 200 to 400 community resources with each other and with the public institutions and other organizations that are members of the CHSSN;
  3. Creation of “The Online Review”, a weekly online press review of health and social services stories published by members of the Quebec Community Newspapers Association.

Our Executive Director, Martin Murphy, is the Chairman of the CHSSN.

- The Fifth Conference on Accessibility of Health and Social Services in the English-language, “Development Through Partnership”, sponsored by the YMCA of Montreal, was held March 22-23, 2002, in Montreal. Workshops included themes on new models of service delivery, funding, volunteering, needs of seniors, distant and rural regional needs, services to intellectually and physically handicapped, mental health needs, drug and alcohol addiction (treatment and prevention), youth and a plan of action to improve access for English-speaking communities.
- In December 2001, it was discovered that the PQ Government was prepared to adopt a secret policy revising the current plans for access to health and social services in English that, if adopted, would have reduced the scope of services in English under the legislative guarantees that currently exist. The Provincial Committee on the dispensing of Health and Social Services in the English-language resigned en masse, explaining that its members “have been systematically ignored and muzzled by the PQ Government and a hostile bureaucracy” that did not respect the committee’s mandate established by Cabinet in 1992.

The ESCC established a special website address and invited concerned groups throughout the Province to participate in a petition campaign urging the Premier and the Minister of Health and Social Services to abandon its plan and instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that all Quebecers wherever they reside are able to receive quality health and social services in English. Approximately one thousand organizations, associations and

individuals participated in the campaign. This initiative was successful. In January 2002, it was announced that the current access plans would remain in effect until such time as a well revised government orientations on the process leading to the renewal of these Access Plans for the next three years will be announced.

- The English Speaking Catholic Council presented its brief to the Romanow Royal Commission on the Future of Healthcare in Canada at public hearings in Quebec City on March 25, 2002. The Council reaffirmed its support of the five principles of the Canada Health Act (public administration, comprehensives, universality, portability and accessibility) as an essential basis for single-tier, universal access to health care for Canadians. From within that framework, the ESCC presented the following recommendations:
  - 1) The Canada Health Act and Canada's health care systems must make the patient the explicit focus of all their attention. Patient-centered care should be the fundamental goal of our efforts.
  - 2) The Canada Health Act principle of "comprehensiveness" must be updated and expanded to reach beyond "physicians and hospitals" to include the range of professionals and the community and home-based services that characterize the new reality of necessary health care.
  - 3) The English Speaking Catholic Council also recommends that a new definition of "comprehensiveness" include recognition of culturally sensitive spiritual support and pastoral ministry as an integral element of effective health care.
  - 4) The Canada Health Act's definition of the principle of "accessibility" must recognize that language can be a formidable barrier to quality health care. This is of particular concern to (though not limited to) official language minority communities.
  - 5) Canadian governments must enhance recognition for volunteers and for charitable contributors and philanthropists who support our health care system. This recognition should take many forms – including enhanced tax credits – that reflect best practices in Canadian and other jurisdictions.
  - 6) The issue of health care funding in Canada must be de-politicized to the extent possible by developing agreements and management mechanisms that guarantee stable funding and encourage outcome-based accountability.
  - 7) The appreciation and respect that Canadians feel for health care providers must be reflected in their remuneration and their working conditions as negotiated and provided by governments and by regional health planners.

Mr. Romanow will submit his report to the Prime Minister of Canada in November 2002.

## **Social Justice Issues**

- In February 2001, in reply to the Speech from the Throne to open the first session of the 37<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Canada, the Prime Minister, Jean Chrétien, made a solemn commitment “to undertake another national project to ensure that no Canadian suffers the debilitating effects of poverty”.

In March 2001, the Premier of Quebec, Bernard Landry, in his speech at the opening session of the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the 36<sup>th</sup> legislature, made a commitment that combating poverty would be a veritable obsession and promised measures would be introduced directed to alleviating this suffering and despair.

The ESCC has had an exchange of correspondence on this issue and intends to continue to apply pressure with all federal and provincial politicians in order that an action plan will be put into effect that will finally honor the long-standing commitment of both governments. The ESCC has also been collaborating with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Assembly of Bishops of Quebec in efforts to have legislation adopted that would have the effect of saying NO to poverty, destitution and marginalization.

- The Coalition for Medication Insurance, supported by 206 groups across Quebec, including the ESCC, organized activities in October, November and December, continuing its campaign to ensure full integration of medication into our universal public healthcare system.
- The ESCC has also established a liaison with Project Genesis (offering individual and community services to resolve social problems), FRAPRU (housing), with the Physicians for Social Justice, with the Quebec Alliance of Retirees and Senior Associations (the Association works to protect the rights of seniors and maintain universality and accessibility of our health and social programs, including homecare, housing and transportation) and with the National Council of Welfare.
- The ESCC will send two representatives to the Fifth International Conference on Children and Poverty in Montreal May 23-25, 2002.

## **Cultural Issues**

- The five-year Framework Agreement signed in December 1999 between the Government of Canada and the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), for the purpose of supporting the development and enhancing the vitality of the English-language minority communities of Quebec, under the Official Languages Act is now in its fourth year. The members of the Management Working Group (its Executive) are: Hugh Maynard (Quebec Farmers Association), Chairman; Martin Murphy (ESCC), Vice Chairman; Helen Walling (Voice of English-speaking Quebec), Treasurer; and Rick Henderson (Outaouais Alliance) and Karl McKay (Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders) are Executive Members. Deborah Hook is the Executive Director, located in the Head Office

in Quebec City. The following is a list of some of the current major initiatives of the QCGN:

1. Program funding protocol for 2002-2003;
2. Project funding protocol for 2002-2003;
3. Liaison with francophone communities;
4. Strategic Plan and Global Development Plan for the QCGN;
5. Due diligence and results-based management;
6. Participation in the Federal and Provincial Civil Service;
7. Interdepartmental Partnerships with Official Languages Communities;
8. Community Radio and Information Technologies;
9. Participation in the Program of Official Languages, Justice and the Court Challenges Program;
10. “Asymmetrical” approach to language rights by the Federal Government.

## **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 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, 2001 to March 31, 2002 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.

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To the English Speaking Catholic Council's Board of Directors, Executive Committee, in particular, David Dussault, President, and Suzanne Brown, its Executive Secretary, Committee Chairpersons and members, Parish Priests, the staff of the Catholic Times, Catholic Community Services, a special thank you for all your dedication, inspiration and support. Together, we can build a better community and fulfill our rightful role as laity in a pluralistic society, as envisaged by the Second Vatican Council.

Martin P. Murphy  
Executive Director  
May 22, 2002