

# THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

## Message From the President

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the annual report for the year 2002-2003.

The Council joined all Montrealers earlier this year to mourn the passing of its founder, steadfast friend and mentor, Bishop Leonard Crowley. We shall miss his dynamism and unfailing support. Let us keep in mind Bishop Crowley's belief that hard work and intelligent endeavour, when turned over to God, inevitably yield wonderful results.

In recognition of its importance and relevance in the field of health and social services, the Council was invited to present a brief to the Romanow Commission on the state of health care in Canada. The recommendations presented in our brief were the fruits of a splendid collaboration of the Council and its Advisory Board. We were delighted to note that most of the final recommendations contained in the Romanow Report were almost identical to those that we presented. We would like to extend our thanks to Columbia Communications for their professional assistance in this matter.

One of the most satisfying activities undertaken by the Council this year was a Strategic Planning initiative. The Council and the Advisory Board met for two half-day, energy-charged planning sessions. While we briefly reviewed the Council's past performance, our focus was firmly set on the future in anticipation of the ever-changing needs of our community. With the help of Grundy Marketing, we are confident that we have established a game plan that guarantees the Council's continued relevance as an advocate for the province's English speaking minority. The Council and its Advisory Board unanimously agreed that strategic planning must become an integral part of the Council's mission.

As we end another year, we offer our heartfelt thanks to those members of the Board of Directors whose six-year mandates have expired. We wish to acknowledge the wonderful contributions of Fr. Eric Maclean, S.J., Dr. Pamela Bright, Mr. Michael Donkers, and Mr. John Walker, whose eight years of service are truly above and beyond the call of duty.

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 generous financial assistance. The Council also thanks the **Catholic Times** for their coverage and support of our efforts.

And finally, I would like to personally thank our Executive Director, Martin Murphy, our Executive Secretary, Suzanne Brown, and her temporary replacement, Andreea Ciornoava. The ESCC is indeed fortunate to have a staff whose work is so routinely excellent.

Sincerely,

David Dussault  
President

# SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

## Education

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.*" More recently, the Assembly of Bishops of Quebec in their discussion document entitled "Orientation for the Formation for a Christian Life" addressed the issue as well:

It may appear to some that this partial retreat from the public school concerning matters of religious education is interpreted as if the Catholic Church should not expect anything from it. We consider this a serious error: Even though limited, the complementary contribution of the school remains potentially significant. Religious instruction is a place of discovery of Christianity in correlation with other cultural acquisitions, and a place of reflection that will enable everyone to exercise their religious freedom. For many young Québécois, religious instruction may be the only opportunity to address, with a certain consistency, the fundamental Christian proposal, as well as other spiritual traditions, in connection with their thirst for happiness, freedom, and authenticity. Religious education in schools must reflect the objectives of the ecclesial mission. We must not become disinterested and resigned to its eventual disappearance. As we have stated, the Church is primarily interested in the humanization of mankind and society, and wishes to collaborate on every occasion that it recognizes an opportunity that it can pursue. The school presents one of these opportunities.

The ESCC applauds the Bishops' position concerning religious education in public schools. We believe that it would be very important at this time, in order to be supportive of Catholic Religious Education in the public system, to inquire as to what kind of formation is envisaged for those who will lead the various formation programs at the different levels and at the different stages of life and what formation is actually offered in the Faculties of Education in the province to prepare elementary and secondary teachers to be competent educators in this subject area. The Education Act guarantees every student from Grade I to Secondary III the right to choose every year, Catholic or Protestant Moral and Religious Instruction or Moral Instruction. It is imperative therefore that Education students interested in teaching CRMI at both the elementary and secondary levels should have the opportunity to take the appropriate courses in order to include this subject as one of their teachables.

You may visit <http://www.eveques.qc.ca/index.php> for the complete text.

- The Department of Theological Studies at Concordia University offers a Certificate in Pastoral Ministries program, which includes an option with a concentration in parish and community ministry, expanding skills and professional formation required for ministry to seniors in hospitals, long-term care residences and in their homes. Funding has been provided by the Father Dowd Foundation to support research related to the program and student participation. There are forty-seven students currently enrolled in this program. The ESCC is actively involved in the promotion of this program.
- On March 12, 2003, The Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, the President of the Privy Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, the Honourable Stéphane Dion, and the President of the Treasury Board, the Honourable Lucienne Robillard, released the Government's Action Plan for Official Languages, providing funding of \$ 751 million over the next five years for its implementation. With respect to official languages in education, the Government of Canada will invest \$381.5 million over the next five years, most of which will be distributed through targeted funding envelopes. The first, at \$137 million over five years, will be earmarked for French and English as second official-language education and the second, at \$209 million over five years, will be aimed at Francophone and Anglophone minority official-language education. An additional amount of \$35.5 million over five years will be allocated to the Summer

Language Bursary Program (\$ 24 million) and the Official-Language Monitor Program (\$ 11.5 million).

- The Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec for minority-language education and second-language instruction for 2000-2001 to 2002-2003 has been extended to March 31, 2004. The ESCC has had several meetings recently with the Assistant Deputy Minister for Services to the English-speaking Community, Mr. Noel Burke, and with Mme. Christine Cadrin-Pelletier, Secrétaire aux affaires religieuses, Ministère de l'Éducation, to discuss the education file. The agenda included Article 5 of the Education Act (religious education), the recent Statistics of Canada census data (English language population decline, especially in the trend in the number of students entering kindergarten, and access to English schools – source of replenishment).
- The Action Plan includes an accountability and coordination framework, which will be accompanied by action plans specifying the objectives, strategic priorities and expected results for three main targets: education, community development, and the federal public service. The ESCC, in collaboration with the Quebec Community Groups Network will continue to make representations to support these initiatives. See the Action Plan for Official Languages [http://www.santemontreal.qc.ca/en/planstrategique/pdf/RR\\_consultation\\_en.pdf](http://www.santemontreal.qc.ca/en/planstrategique/pdf/RR_consultation_en.pdf)

## Health and Social Services

- Every three years, public health and social services institutions, hospitals, CLSCs, rehabilitation, residential and long-term care centers – elect a new board of directors. These elections took place on October 21, 2002. The English Speaking Catholic Council cooperated with other community organizations to ensure active participation in the process. Separate letters were sent to the forty-two parishes in the Diocese of Montreal and the thirteen parishes in the Diocese of St-Jean-Longueuil along with a suggested insert for parish bulletins. We are satisfied that these efforts were helpful in having representatives elected to many of these different tables to ensure that our needs and concerns will be addressed.
- Bill 28, an act amending the Act respecting health and social services, adopted in the National Assembly in June 2001, established a People's Forum, which has as its mandate to:
  - Formulate recommendations on the means to be put in place for:
- Improving user satisfaction with services
- Better meeting needs in terms of how services are organized.
- Contribute to setting up different mechanisms for public consultation on health care and wellness issues.
- Give opinions on:
- The three-year strategic plan for organisation of services, to be passed by the board of directors
- The regional public action plan that the regional board plans to develop and implement over the next few months.

The English Speaking Catholic Council recommended that John Walker, Immediate Past President of the English Speaking Catholic Council, be named to the People's Forum and we are pleased to report that Mr. Walker has been invited to serve on this forum for the next three years.

- In March 2003, the English Speaking Catholic Council supported the electronic petition addressed to Premier Landry, and the Health Minister, with copies to the Liberal and ADQ Health Critics, demanding that the Government of Quebec say YES to the Shriners' continued presence in Montreal, Quebec.
  - We want the Shriners Hospital for children to remain in Montreal. The Shriners organization should be encouraged in its willingness to invest in a new facility in Quebec.
  - We are proud of the Hospital's record of medical excellence and world-leading research in the field of pediatric orthopedics and we are concerned that we are at great risk of losing the facility to another city.
  - Please respond quickly to their request for a decision on the Glen Site as the future home of both the MUHC and the new Shriners Hospital in Montreal.
  - In November 2002, Roy Romanow, Commissioner for the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada submitted his Final Report to the Government of Canada entitled "Building on Values – The Future of Health Care in Canada."

The English Speaking Catholic Council joined with the majority of Canadians in praising the work of the Romanow Commission. In March 2002, the English Speaking Catholic Council presented a series of recommendations to Mr. Romanow at the public hearings. Most of them are reflected in his final report. In a statement sent to all members of Parliament and all members of the National Assembly, which was also published as an op-ed in the Montreal Gazette on February 4, 2003, the ESCC called on the federal government to recommit itself to a single-tier health care system for all Canadians and to the five principles on which Medicare has been constructed. Like the majority of citizens in this country, the ESCC sees universal, comprehensive, accessible, portable and publicly-administered health care as a vital component of who we are as Canadians.

We were encouraged that the Commission recognized the need to improve access to services to official language minorities in Canada (Recommendation 28), but we expressed regret that legislative guarantees for better access was not included among the recommendations. The experience of anglo-Quebecers with legislative guarantees and access plans convinces us that they are essential and need to be reinforced at the federal level as well

See <http://www.healthcarecommission.ca/> for the complete text of the Report, and the ESCC response on its website under *ESCC Statements*.

- The Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN) of which the English Speaking Catholic Council is a member and the Executive Director is its Chairman, recently launched an internet portal (<http://www.chssn.org>) to serve as a community capacity-building tool. The features support dissemination of information on English-language health and social services and on English-speaking communities and their needs; dissemination of partnership initiatives promoting innovative models of service; and a range of services and opportunities for its forty-eight member organizations. Completed features include the English Speaking Catholic Council Translation Network (for Translation Network members), the online services maps and database, the Data Model (for CHSSN members), members' Mini-web sites, the Bulletin Board, the Documentation Centre, Projects and Partnerships, and the Knowledge-based Community Development Initiative (December 2002).

Other results achieved during the past year include for example:

- The CHSSN has launched 'Community Net Link' which consists of four related activities aiming to support community resources. 'Community Resource Access' is integrating up to 200 community resources into the online services database and the CHSSN maps to complement the entitled services provided by public institutions. A journalist is engaged to produce the 'Net Link', an online newsletter for participating community resources and CHSSN members. The Quebec Community Newspapers Association is producing an online weekly press review of health and social services stories published by its thirty-two member papers. The Quebec Learners' Network is organizing an online forum for community organizations wishing to gain access to Health Canada funding programs.
- The CHSSN participated in the coordination of the Patient and Community Support Network sponsored by the Holland Resources Development Corporation. The project consisted of five partnership projects using videoconferencing to provide Montreal-based services to distant communities and clientele. The results are being prepared for dissemination on the CHSSN website.
- The CHSSN participates on the Health Canada Consultative Committee for English-speaking Minority Communities. Our network contributed to the preparation of a report to the Federal Health Minister. The CHSSN has been involved in the preparation of the Action Plan being developed by the Federal Minister responsible for coordinating the federal government's commitment to supporting minority language communities. The network is also active in the development of the QCGN Global Development Plan, through participation on a sector task force.
- The Dion Action Plan already referred to has budgeted \$14 million over five years for Health Canada to support Networking in the minority communities in Canada. Quebec will receive \$5 million (2:1 ratio francos vs. anglos). Health Canada has proposed that the Quebec Community Groups Network be the organization responsible to administer this envelope. The Executive Director will chair a Working Group to prepare a protocol which will be presented to Health Minister McLellan for approval and subsequently to the QCGN's AGM in May for ratification. In addition to Networking (\$14 million), Training and Retention (\$75 million) and Primary Health Care Transition Fund (2000 Agreement on Health) (\$30 million) for a total of \$119 million will be invested for Health in the next five years.
- In March 2003, the English Speaking Catholic Council received a consultation paper entitled "Action for Health – Montreal Improvement Plan for Health and Well-Being, 2003 – 2006, from the Régie Régionale de la santé et des services sociaux de Montreal Centre. The ESCC organized a meeting to which were invited several representatives of our community, notably CCS, Father Dowd, St. Margaret's and St. Andrew's, St. Mary's Hospital, Batshaw, CLSC, CHSSN and Missisquoi Institute, to provide input for a response to the consultation document. The ESCC submitted a brief in April 2003.

We highlighted a series of values and principles, which we believe must inform any restructuring and new investment in health and social services in Régie régionale – Montreal Centre. These are:

Values:

- Focus on the individual
- Respect for communities
- Respect for diversity

Principles:

- Equity of access (deficit of long-term care beds for English-speaking seniors, homecare services)
- Recognition of individual and community needs
- Flexibility in the application of territoriality

- Respect for diversity must be translated into programming
- The first line of care is the family and the community

In view of the great advances in biotechnology and medicine, we recommended that all health care institutions have the services of a clinical ethicist, working within an interdisciplinary team. The choices and decisions people are called to make regarding treatment and end of life issues can be very challenging to them from a number of perspectives, including the ethical. The need for dialogue between patients (consumers) and professionals, and between professionals themselves is becoming more important.

The brief is posted on the ESCC website under *Briefs Presented to Government*.

## Social Justice Issues

- In May 2002, ESCC Board member Lorette Noble and the Executive Director attended the Fifth International Conference on the Child in Dorval, Quebec. The following recommendations agreed to at the Conference were specifically addressed to the Federal and Provincial Governments of Canada:
  1. Take all steps necessary to implement and maintain social services which reflect the commitments of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and ensure compliance;
  2. Create and enforce social development and welfare standards for minimum levels of education, health, childcare, housing and income;
  3. Ensure that all federal and provincial funding and budgets for social programs are tied to Canadian federal and provincial standards, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international standards;
  4. Set up publicly-funded universal programs for early childhood education from age one and increase the number of childcare spaces by 14% each year to support the rights of the child to early childhood care and development as a program for poverty prevention;
  5. Ensure that more women participate in national and provincial decision-making bodies in order to mainstream social programming;
  6. Ensure that there is a strengthening and direct citizen input into the evaluation of the Social Union Framework Agreement between the Federal Government and provinces and territories;
  7. Insure that basic public social services including education, health and social services are not undermined by tax cuts at all levels of government;
  8. Focus public policy initiatives and legislation on concrete measures to ensure that parents can provide for the basic needs of their children, an approach which would substantially reduce child poverty.
  
- In November 2002, the Executive Director participated at a Conference on Home Care sponsored by the Quebec Alliance of Retirees and Seniors Associations. Eight different types of needs that must be met were identified to ensure good home care for seniors, viz.,
  - Medical and nursing care - Personal care
  - Housekeeping - Food and nutrition
  - Transport - Housing
  - Social life - Provision for caregivers

The provision of services, ensuring adequate financing, assignment of responsibility and ensuring standards, are all pressing issues requiring government leadership and support. The ESCC is collaborating with the associations in follow-up.

- The ESCC has established regular liaison with Project Genesis (offering individual and community services to resolve social problems), the Coalition for Medication Insurance, FRAPU (housing), with the Physicians for Social Justice, with the Quebec Alliance of Retirees and Seniors Associations (the Associations work 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.
- In 2001-2002, the ESCC continued its efforts, in collaboration with its partners, urging the Quebec Government to adopt legislation which would have the effect of saying NO to poverty, destitution and marginalization. In December 2002, the National Assembly adopted Bill 112, the object of which is to guide the Government and the community as a whole towards a process of planning and implementing actions to combat poverty and social exclusion. The bill creates the obligation for the Government to table an action plan setting forth a set of activities and measures designed to achieve the goals envisioned, which are to improve the economic and social situation of persons and families living in poverty or social exclusion, to reduce inequalities that may particularly affect such persons and families. The bill creates as well the additional obligation for the Government to table a report every year on the activities related to the action plan. (The Bill appears on <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/eng/Publications/Projets-loi/Publics/index.htm>).
- In the Fall of 2002, the Minister responsible for Democratic Reform, Jean-Pierre Charbonneau, announced that the Government would be holding an Estates General on Democratic Governance in Quebec in the new year. The reflection concerned both the nature and the operation of our system of governance.
  - First, the actual political system and the true meaning of representative democracy.
  - The centralized nature of our system.
  - The absence of participation by the eleven First Nations.
  - The more direct and more frequent participation by citizens.
  - New initiatives are often called for, in particular:
    - Elections held at fixed dates;
    - A limit on the number of terms that a Prime Minister can serve;
    - The right to vote at age 16;
    - A voter's card
    - The possibility of obliging parties to ensure a fair balance between men and women.

The ESCC prepared a response to the forty-page document called "Citizen Empowerment" which was sent to all members of the Estates General Committee, all members of the National Assembly, and the English and French press. The ESCC questioned the motivation for the exercise and expressed concern about the lack of in-depth studies on the implications of some of the possible changes being considered and how these changes to our democratic tradition might affect the political rights of citizens and of communities.

The complete text appears on the ESCC website under *ESCC Statements*.

## Cultural Issues

- On December 10, 2002, Statistics Canada released the 2001 Census of Canada population profile of languages in Canada. Excerpts from the document appear at the end of this Annual Report.

In May 2003, Statistics Canada will publish the data on the religion component, the reading on which takes place only every ten years. The ESCC anxiously awaits this release.

To access the complete detailed analysis, please consult Statistics Canada's website: [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca). On the home page, choose Census.

- The five-year Framework Agreement 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-speaking minority communities of Quebec, will expire March 31, 2004. Negotiations for renewal will begin next Fall. (Incidentally, Martin Murphy, Executive Director, was elected President of the QCGN in June 2002). The mission of the QCGN is to contribute to the development and enhancement of the vitality of the English-language minority communities of Quebec. The twenty regional and sector groups comprising the current membership of the QCGN, have been very actively involved during the past year in shaping policies and programs, a few of which are highlighted below:
  0. Completion of Phase II of a Global Development Plan – a framework that presents the development priorities of the English-language minority communities of Quebec. Eight priority sectors, viz., heritage, arts and culture, communications and media, education and training, health and social services, business and employment, youth and visibility and leadership will report at an Intersectorial Conference in Montreal in May, 2003.
  1. Development of an evaluation and rating strategy for the assessment of funding requests under the Official Languages Support Program within the context of results-based management.
  2. Renewal of cooperation towards a new partnership between the QCGN and Canadian Heritage by the creation of a National Coordination Committee, with a mandate to work together to orient policies, programs and services of the entire Department of Canadian Heritage.
  3. Intergovernmental Cooperation component of the Promotion of Official Languages Program involving Agriculture, Canada Council, Canada Economic Development, Citizenship and Immigration, Health Canada, Industry Canada and Justice Canada.
  4. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on May 28, 2002, between the Government of Canada as represented by the members of Human Resources Development, Agriculture, Industry, Canadian Heritage, Treasury Board, Fisheries & Oceans and Economic Development AND the Community Table of National Human Resources Development Committee for the English Linguistic Minority and the Quebec Community Groups Network. The purpose of this agreement is to support the development of the English-language minority communities in Quebec in the areas of human resource and community economic development.
  5. The QCGN wishes to continue to work with representatives of the Government of Canada in the establishment and implementation of policy, the coordination of government programs and the development of resources to support the activities in the Dion's Action Plan.

## Rally

The Fifteenth English Speaking Catholic Community Rally was held on April 29, 2002, at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Montreal. The theme was "Building a New and Better World." Seven hundred persons attended the three-hour event and had the opportunity to visit eighty organizations, representing our community's many social, educational and pastoral services.

The formal part of the evening chaired by Jacquie Rourke, began with a Youth Prayer by Isabel Correa to mark World Youth Day celebrations in 2002 and Greetings from His Excellency Bishop Anthony Mancini, Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal and Director of the Office for English Pastoral Services and from His Eminence Jean Claude Cardinal Turcotte, Archbishop of Montreal.

The ESCC wishes to thank all kiosk clients for their participation, ushers from Loyola High School, Pastors for their encouragement through publicity in their parish bulletin, the Auxiliary of St. Mary's Hospital Center, the pianist for the delightful entertainment, the Sheraton Centre, the Bishop Award Committee, and the Rally Committee, chaired by Anne Garland, for having organized a very successful event. The next Rally will take place in the Spring of 2004.

Patrick Rourke, Chairman of the Bishop Crowley Award Committee, announced that the recipients of the Bishop Crowley Award for 2002 would be the Benedict Labre House, Father Emmett Johns (Le Bon Dieu dans la Rue) and Nicole (and the late) Ed Timmouth in recognition of distinguished service in the community.

## Nomination/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 at each Annual General Meeting, 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, 2002 to March 31, 2003 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, 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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For over two decades now, the English Speaking Catholic Council has served the English-speaking Catholic community through the commitment of dedicated volunteers who have provided their time and resources in the service of others. To the English Speaking Catholic Council's Board of Directors, its Executive Committee, in particular, David Dussault, President, and Suzanne Brown, Executive Secretary, and her temporary replacement Andreea Cioroava, Committee Chairpersons and members, Parish Priests, the staff of the Catholic Times, Catholic Community Services, a special thank you for all your generosity and support.

Martin P. Murphy  
Executive Director  
May 21, 2003