

THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the President

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the annual report for the year 2003-2004.

During the past year one of the principal projects undertaken by the Council was the compilation of a demographic profile of the English-speaking Catholic community in Quebec based on the 2001 Census of Canada data. The publication and diffusion of these findings with respect to age distribution, ethnic grouping, place of origin, education, occupation and income will be especially useful as a resource in our community in advocating social, cultural, health and educational policies. This demographic profile will be presented at our AGM on May 19, 2004.

The Council also provided administrative assistance to the Department of Theological Studies of Concordia University for the organization of its very successful *Loving our Aging Community* conference at Loyola High School on March 26 and 27, 2004. This was part of the Department's Certificate in Pastoral Ministries Program with a focus on expanding skills and professional formation required for ministry to seniors in hospitals, long-term care residences and in their homes.

In April 2004, the ESCC submitted a brief on Quebec's Bill 25, *An Act respecting local health and social services*. The Council strongly supported the recommendation made by St. Mary's Hospital Centre, the Father Dowd, St. Andrew's and St. Margaret's Combined Homes in Montreal and the Jeffrey Hale Hospital and St. Brigid's Home in Quebec City. We endorsed the structural proposals that would allow these institutions to continue to make their unique and important contributions to quality health and social services in the province.

The Seventeenth English Speaking Catholic Community Rally will take place in the fall of 2004. This event provides a forum to continue building a sense of community, to establish greater liaison and communication with our organizations, and to coordinate community resources towards more effective action.

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

Finally, I would like to thank our Executive Director, Martin Murphy and our Executive Secretary, Suzanne Brown, for their excellent work. The success of the Council is due in large part to their dedication and sound management. We are indeed fortunate to have a staff whose work is of such a high caliber.

Warren Allmand

ESCC COMMITTEES 2003 - 2004

Executive

WARREN ALLMAND
President

BRIAN O'NEILL
Vice-President

FRANCIS D'SOUZA
Treasurer

ANNE GARLAND
Secretary

DAVID DUSSAULT
Past-President

Education

- Monitors policy & legislation;
- Facilitates communication among leaders;
- Develops and articulates unified positions;

Social Issues

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

Communications

- Parishes, Media, AGM, Rally, Annual Report, E-Mail, and Web Page;
- Develops liaison with community leadership and its resources.

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.

Rally

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

Finance

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

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

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Education

- Article 5 of the *Education Act* stipulates that every student (other than a student in the second cycle of the secondary level or a student enrolled in vocational training or adult education) has a right to choose, every year, between either Catholic or Protestant moral and religious instruction or moral instruction.

Ministerial regulations recently modified the definition of cycles at the secondary level as follows:

Cycle I is Secondary I and II;

Cycle II is Secondary III, IV and V.

Please see the tables on page 6 regarding the Quebec Provincial Statistics provided by the Secretariat aux affaires religieuses on the number of students enrolled in public schools in 2003-2004 in Catholic & Protestant Moral and Religious Instruction and in Moral Instruction.

- In 2001, the Religious Affairs Committee was mandated by the Minister of Education to clarify the issues surrounding the place of religious expression in the schools. The Committee prepared a brief (dated March 2003) entitled “*Religious Rites and Symbols in the Schools – The Educational Challenges of Diversity*”. It suggests a number of frameworks within which the religious dimension might be harmoniously expressed, in keeping with the educational mission and democratic values that form the foundations of our society. This document is available on the Internet site of the Comité sur les affaires religieuses (CAR) (www.meq.gouv.qc.ca/affairesreligieuses) or at the Comité’s office at 1035 rue de la Chevrotière, 16e étage, Québec, Qc, G1R 5A5.
- In the Spring of 2003, the Federal Government announced in its Action Plan an investment of \$381.5 million over the next five years targeting minority language education and second-language instruction for both official language minority communities in Canada. The ESCC recently attended several meetings with the Assistant Deputy Minister for the English Community (Education) Mr. Noel Burke, and with the Commissioner of Official Languages, Dr. Dyane Adam, providing input on the renewal of the entente between the Governments of Canada and Quebec.

- General school board elections were held in November 2003. To vote, one must have been a qualified elector and be registered on the list of electors of one's school board. The following notice was issued by the Director-General of Elections:

“If you are registered on the permanent list of electors of Québec, you will automatically be registered on the list of school electors.

If you have one or more children admitted to a French-language or English-language school board in September, you should be registered in that school board.

If you do not have children admitted to a school board in September, you will normally be registered on the list of electors of the French-language school board. However, if you wish to vote in the English-language school board, you must make an application to the director general of that school board, unless you have already done so.”

The ESCC made representations to the Minister of Education and to eight Members of the National Assembly to enact legislation to facilitate the process for those whose name appeared on the French-language school board's list of electors but who wished to vote in an English-language school board.

We were advised that the Government was unable, given time constraints, to amend the legislation or adopt a regulation allowing an interim measure to address the problem.

- In March 2004, the Department of Theological Studies hosted an event entitled “*Loving Our Aging Community*”. The goal of the conference was to promote a deeper understanding of the needs of the elderly members in our community in order to facilitate formation for those who work with seniors. Helene McCormack, an ESCC Board member, formally presented her monograph “*And we shall honor our Fathers and our Mothers – The Role of Church in Outreach Ministry to the Elderly and Shut-ins*”. Msgr. Sean Harty, Episcopal Vicar & Director of the Office for English Pastoral Services, announced the formation of an Advisory Council for the Elderly and the creation of a half-time position for care to the elderly. The Father Dowd Foundation and the English Speaking Catholic Council both received public recognition for their support of this initiative.
- The Department of Theological Studies at Concordia University offers a Certificate in Pastoral Ministries, 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 this program.

Health & Social Services

- In April 2003, the ESCC responded to the Regional Board's consultation paper "*Action for Health: Montreal Improvement Plan for Health and Well-being.*" Representatives of our community, notably CCS, Father Dowd, St. Margaret's and St. Andrew's Combined Homes, St. Mary's Hospital Centre, Batshaw Youth & Family Services; CLSCs, Community Health & Social Services Network and Mississquoi Institute, provided input to the brief. We highlighted a number of values and principles which we believe must inform any restructuring and new investment in health and social services in the Montreal Region, viz.,

Values:

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

Principles:

- o Equity of access (deficit of long-term care beds for English-speaking seniors, homecare services)
 - o Recognition of individual and community needs
 - o Flexibility in the application of territoriality
 - o Respect for diversity must be translated into programming
 - o The first line of care is the family and the community
- The Federal Government Action Plan announced in the Spring of 2003 to support the development of both official languages minority communities in Canada, has targeted \$14 million for Networking, \$75 million for Training and Retention, and \$30 million for Primary Health Care, for a total investment of \$119 million in Health in the next five years.

The Quebec Community Groups Network has been designated by Health Canada to supervise the implementation of this program for the English-speaking minority population in Quebec. Communities will be invited to submit projects that will have the objectives of maintaining and developing further access to the full range of healthcare services in English. The Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN), of which the English Speaking Catholic Council is a member, will promote participation in our community. For further information, visit CHSSN's Internet site at www.chssn.org.

- In June 2003, the ESCC submitted the names of candidates to serve on the Regional Access Advisory Committee in response to the invitation from the President and Executive Director of the Montreal-Centre Regional Board.
- In September 2003, the ESCC recommended to the Health & Social Services Minister, Philippe Couillard, the names of candidates to serve on the Provincial Advisory Committee on Access to Health & Social Services in the English Language, which has now been reactivated. Members appointed to the Provincial Access Committee are:

Ralph Bienstock (Laval); Jim Carter (Montréal-Centre); Vicky Driscoll (Côte-Nord); Judith Grant (Outaouais); Marjorie Goodfellow (Estrie); Jennifer Johnson-Blouin (Québec); Karl McKay (Gaspésie-Iles-de-la-Madeleine); Maria Piazza (Montréal-Centre); Lorraine Torpy (Montérégie); Michael Udy (Montréal-Centre); and Aline Visser (Chaudière-Appalaches).

- In November 2003, the ESCC recommended the names of candidates to serve on the new Federal Health Council in response to Federal Minister of Health Anne McLellan's invitation.
- Bill 25, *An Act respecting local health and social services network development agencies*, was adopted by the Quebec National Assembly in December 2003. It proposes the creation of local health and social services' network development agencies to succeed the regional health and social services boards.

Among other measures, the bill stipulates that each of the new local networks must include a local authority consolidating the institutions identified by the Agency that provide services to local community centres, long-term care and hospital care centres. In addition, each local network must include the services or activities of physicians, pharmacists, community organizations, social economy enterprises and private resources.

Public Hearings took place in Montreal on March 29, 30 and 31, 2004 as well as Town Hall meetings which were held between March 24th and April 8th in neighborhoods across the Island.

The English Speaking Catholic Council submitted a brief to the Agence, with copies to Minister Philippe Couillard, members of the National Assembly and to the press. We indicated our strong support of the resolutions of the CHSLD Father Dowd, St. Margaret's & St. Andrew's, St. Mary's Hospital Centre and its various boards, the Jeffrey Hale Hospital and St. Brigid's Home in Quebec City. The brief will be posted on the ESCC website www.catholiccentre.ca/esccl.

The ESCC called on the new Agence de développement de réseaux locaux de services de santé et de services sociaux (formerly Regional Board for Health and Social Services), to recognize the fundamental importance of the historic link between our community and these institutions. We insisted that direct community involvement in the management and control of these institutions must be preserved in any reform. We appealed to the Agence to be especially attentive to the interests and needs of seniors in the reorganization process and also particularly as they relate to the provision of quality English-language health and social services for our linguistic minority.

The Montreal *Gazette* published as an op-ed on April 19, 2004, an article issued by the ESCC entitled "*Health reforms must preserve community links*". It states: "As a bottom line for responsible reform, the English Speaking Catholic Council insists that no community, region or neighborhood should find itself with fewer services and with fewer protections for services in the minority language at the end of this process than it had at the beginning."

Social Issues

- In December 2002, the National Assembly adopted Bill 112, *An Act 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 designed to improve the economic and social situation of persons and families living in poverty and social exclusion.

In January 2004, the Quebec Minister of Finance held prebudget consultations and this provided the ESCC with a forum to communicate our concerns to him and to other members of the National Assembly, and bring to his attention the obligations outlined in this legislation and in particular, the provision of adequate funding to finance measures to address the commitments of the Government to combat poverty aggressively, especially as it affects children and seniors.

The MNA for Jacques Cartier, Geoff Kelley, gave assurance that policies and programs are being put in place that will have a positive impact on the lives of poor Quebecers across the province. He admits that more must be done. “Many of the issues outlined by the late Claude Ryan in his report on poverty remain to be addressed. We will be working within our caucus to make sure we honor his memory and our commitments in the legislation.” Please see the 79-page document announced by Employment, Social Solidarity and Family Minister, Claude Béchar, reporting anti-poverty measures in the Quebec Government’s Spring budget totalling \$2.5 billion over five years highlights of which appeared in the Montreal *Gazette* on Saturday, April 3, 2004.

- In October 2003, the ESCC participated in a Town Hall meeting chaired by Clifford Lincoln, M.P. for Lac-Saint-Louis and Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage, on issues affecting seniors, including:
 1. Poverty alleviation, including issues related to income support and housing;
 2. Eldercare, including issues related to home care, independent living, and elder abuse;
 3. Disabilities, including issues related to access and disability support; and
 4. Workforce issues, including retraining issues, structural changes to the workplace, and volunteer work.
- The ESCC added its voice with all other Canadians deploring the firebombing of the United Talmud Torah School in Saint-Laurent on April 5, 2004. It condemned this act of violence, which touches at the heart of all Canadians. There is no place in a civilized society such as Canada for this cowardly act directed against the innocent and defenseless. The ESCC expressed the hope that no effort would be spared in bringing these despicable perpetrators of this crime to justice. This message was communicated widely, including the Prime Minister, Paul Martin, Premier Charest, the Federal and Provincial Ministers of Justice, members of the National Assembly and to the Canadian Jewish Congress (Quebec Region).

- The English Speaking Catholic Council enjoys membership and/or retains regular liaison with many community organizations working to support seniors, chiefly among which are:
 - the Quebec Alliance of Retirees and Seniors Associations (medical and nursing care; housekeeping; transport; social life; personal care, food & nutrition, and housing)
 - Front D'Action Populaire en réaménagement urbain, FRAPRU;
 - National Council of Welfare;
 - Conseil des aînés;
 - Project Genesis (re. Drug insurance plan);
 - CCS, Good Shepherd Community Centre, the Teapot 50 Plus Centre, Almage Senior Community Centre, Benedict Labre House, La Passerelle, Share the Warmth Foundation;
 - Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP);
 - Quebec Association for Adult Learning;
 - Department of Theological Studies of Concordia University (Loyola Campus).

In addition, information to improve access to opportunities and further enhance the quality of life of all Canadian seniors is abundant:

- Health Canada's Seniors Guide to Federal Programs and Services: (Pension & benefits; taxes; housing; health; human rights; lifelong learning; safety and security; disability assistance; environment; travel volunteer activities; etc.).

This publication is available by telephone at (613) 952-7606, by fax at (613) 957-9938, by e-mail at seniors@hc-sc.gc.ca or via website www.hc-sc.gc.ca/seniors-aines.

- The McGill Centre for Studies in Aging organizes public lectures addressing health, psycho-social, legal and financial issues with a mandate to improve quality of life of our senior population. The calendar this year included such topics as the prevention and treatment of glaucoma, cataracts and macular degeneration – and emerging treatment of Alzheimer disease.
- *Know your Rights, take your Place* – a legal guide for seniors, produced by the Fondation du Barreau du Québec in cooperation with Éducaloi, provides answers to many legal questions that seniors, their families and those working with them may have on housing, the healthcare system, abuse, exploitation, consumer rights, incapacity, home support, mandates, wills, leases, etc. To obtain a copy of the Legal Guide for seniors, dial 1-800-361-8495, ext. 3456.

The ESCC will continue to be proactive in its advocacy efforts which will benefit and improve the quality of life for seniors.

Cultural Issues

- In December 2003, Statistics Canada published data on the religious component in Canada, a reading taken only every ten years. The ESCC submitted a project to the Department of Canadian Heritage for funding to prepare a demographic profile of the English-speaking Catholic community in Quebec. Variables considered will include place of birth, ethnic origin, education, occupation, income, and language spoken at home. We believe that the range of profiles could serve as templates for identifying facilities, youth centres, convalescent homes, etc., which will be required in the future to respond to the needs in our community. It is hoped that our findings will be especially useful as a resource in our community in advocating reasonable social, cultural, health, social services, social justice and educational policies. This report will be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the English Speaking Catholic Council on May 19, 2004.
- The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), established in 1995, represents all of the English-language minority organizations that receive funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage for the development and enhancement of the vitality of the English-language minorities of Quebec. (Incidentally, Martin Murphy, ESCC Executive Director continues to serve as President of the QCGN). The Network has been actively involved during the past year in shaping policies and programs, chiefly among which are:
 - Presentation of a Brief to the Standing Committee on Official Languages re. Bill C-202, *An Act to amend the Canada Health Act* by adding a sixth principle of respecting linguistic duality;
 - Global Development Plan for the English-speaking community in Quebec;
 - Health and Social Services networking and partnership initiative, providing funding of up to \$4.7 million over the next five years;
 - Information & Communication Technology Project;
 - Community Research Inventory Review and Needs Assessment;
 - Meetings with: the Commissioner of Official Languages, Deputy-Minister and other senior officials at the National and Regional Offices of the Department of Canadian Heritage; the Assistant Deputy Minister of the English Community (Education); the National Coordinators of thirty key federal departments and agencies for the implementation of Section 41 of the *Official Languages Act*; Treasury Board re. Service to the public in both official languages and policy for bilingualism in the federal public service; presentation of community feedback re. Government Action Plan (\$751 million over 2003-2008); at Ministerial Consultations with Anglophone Official Language Minority Communities, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and President of the Queen's Privy Council of Canada and other Federal Cabinet representatives responsible for the implementation of the Action Plan; Members of the National Assembly; and Members of Parliament.

Rally

The Sixteenth English Speaking Catholic Community Rally will take place in the Fall of 2004.

The Rally will provide a forum:

- To strengthen our communications with over eighty organizations and institutions providing service in our community;
- To increase visibility and strengthen our links with our parishes; and
- To encourage further opportunities for dialogue among all members of our society, closer liaison and active cooperation with our partners serving the community in promoting the common good, especially in education, health, social service, seniors issues and social justice domains. It provides a forum also where leaders, staff volunteers and the public at large assemble to exchange with others, build networks and become more aware of services provided in the English-language in our community.

The Bishop Crowley Memorial Award will be presented to an individual(s) or organization(s) at the Rally 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, 2003 to March 31, 2004 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 1994, 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, Warren Allmand, President, and Suzanne Brown, Executive Secretary, and her temporary replacement Andreea Ciornoava in the first few months of this fiscal year, Committee Chairpersons and members, the Archdiocese of Montreal, His Eminence Jean Claude Cardinal Turcotte, Most Reverend Anthony Mancini, V.G., Auxiliary Bishop and Msgr. Sean Harty, Episcopal Vicar and Director of the Office for English Pastoral Services, 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 19, 2004