



The English Speaking Catholic Council

Le conseil catholique d'expression anglaise

COMMUNICATIONS ASSEMBLY JUNE 9, 2012

BRIEF FROM THE ENGLISH SPEAKING CATHOLIC COUNCIL

The English Speaking Catholic Council appreciates the opportunity to participate in this General Assembly convened by Bishop Thomas Dowd on the future of communications within the English Sector of the Archdiocese of Montreal.

The Catholic Times has served our community since 1976 with distinction and has earned a national and international reputation for its excellent quality of Catholic journalism.

It is a precious asset, arguably an essential voice speaking about the values of our Classical and Christian Tradition and the reality of our Faith in today's world (evangelization and catechetical formation).

It is our belief that we would be impoverished if this channel was no longer included among our other important community resources.

The ESCC recommends that the Catholic Times:

- a) Continue its mission and renew its mandate as an autonomous entity with its current accreditation status and editorial independence
- b) Continue to publish issues in print format on a regular basis
- c) Embrace electronic and social media (e-mail, texting, web, blogs, Facebook and Twitter) from a faith-centered perspective with gradual implementation
- d) Ensure a reasonable editorial capacity
- e) Invest in hardware and software required
- f) Expand board representation to include expertise in electronic/social media, marketing and fund-raising, recognizing that the latter is not its primary function

- g) Explore avenues to ensure distribution reaches its target audience (there are 222,448 English-speaking Catholics in Montreal, 25,835 in Laval and 57,348 in the Montérégie)
- h) Elicit commitments from delegates on June 9, 2012
 - a. To propose the names of candidates to fill the three major vacancies on the C T Board
 - b. To serve on a Blue Ribbon Panel to prepare a critical path in response to the consensus which hopefully will emerge on June 9th and report by September 9, 2012.
- i) Investigate Best Practices in Communications in other Catholic jurisdictions.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary McDaid,

President and other members of the Board of Directors,

The English Speaking Catholic Council

Montreal – May 22, 2012

