

Annual Report 2020-21



ESCC
Celebrating 40 Years

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Executive Director

Suzanne Brown
Executive Assistant

Message from the President

I am pleased to present the ESCC's Annual Report for 2020-2021. This has been an extraordinary year. Every day seemed to bring new challenges for all and great hardships for many. We have struggled, in different ways and under different circumstances, to come to grips with a completely altered reality in both our professional and personal lives and in our church communities.

I am proud of the efforts that the Council made to continue to fulfil its mandate despite the disruptions of the past year. Knowing that project expenses were going to be lower because of the necessity of cancelling certain events during the lockdown, the Council sought to assist the community where it could. As an example, the Council provided the money for Montreal Directed Retreats to purchase a Zoom Pro subscription so that they could start a daily program entitled, "Praying with Scripture on Zoom." Over 200 people are registered for the program and between 20-30 people participate everyday. Catherine Cherry of MDR reports that over 95% of the participants are older adults and that the program has been one of their primary means of maintaining social and spiritual connections during the pandemic. The Council also provided support to food assistance programs run from our English-speaking parishes as well as connecting them to extra funding which was provided through their local MNA's offices. In addition, the Council organized online workshops for English-speaking newcomers on the topics of taxes and Canadian finance. Sadly, the last year has seen the passing of a number of former Board members: Fr. John Walsh and Richard McConomy, both founding members of the Council, as well as Margaret Healy, Robert Dobie and Bob Cochrane. We are grateful for their lives of dedicated service to the community.

Founded in 1981, the English Speaking Catholic Council is currently celebrating 40 years of service to the minority language community of Quebec. Naturally this year will be one which involves looking back in gratitude for the many accomplishments of the Council and recognition of the men and women who contributed to those efforts. But it will also be a year of vigilance, education and action as the political and linguistic landscape once again shifts and shudders beneath our feet.

I would like to thank each of the Directors of the Board for their generous contribution of time to the work of the Council. In addition, I would like to thank our Executive Director, Anna Farrow, and our Executive Assistant, Suzanne Brown, for their efforts on behalf of the Council.

Paula Celani

Strategic Priorities

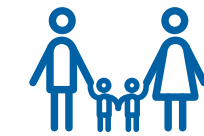
2020-21

1. Participate with community organizations and initiatives which advance the interests of the English-speaking community in Quebec, with a particular emphasis upon, and concern for, the English-speaking Catholic community.
2. Work with community leaders to welcome and integrate new immigrants and newcomers to the English-speaking community of Quebec.
3. Provide research and plan activities to improve the quality of life for English-speaking seniors. Address social isolation amongst English-speaking seniors of Greater Montreal area.
4. Collaborate with established networks to promote access to English-language health and social services.
5. Engage with community leaders and government representatives on life and education issues, including but not restricted to: abortion, euthanasia and palliative care.



Our Vision

To be a forum for Montreal's English-speaking Catholics of all origins as well as a knowledgeable, articulate and reasoned lay Catholic voice on matters affecting the vitality of the English-speaking community in Quebec and the common good of Canadian society.



Our Mission

To act as a catalyst, convener and facilitator of community life and collective action for the English-speaking Catholic Community of Greater Montreal (ESCC) and to develop and advocate positions on issues of public concern which affirm and promote Catholic ideals and values related to human dignity, social justice and the common good.

English-Speaking Quebecers and Language Politics



In a year of incredible upheaval, the English minority language community of Quebec has seen the unfolding of a new set of challenges on the language front. These challenges come from both the federal and provincial government and have the potential to alter both the Canadian constitutional landscape and the everyday lives of English-speaking Quebecers. On February 19, 2021, the government released its policy paper on its proposed changes to the Official Languages Act, English and French: Towards the substantive equality of official languages in Canada. A key underlying principle of those changes was telegraphed in the Throne Speech delivered five months earlier in which it was stated that the government, “has the responsibility to protect and promote French not only outside of Quebec, but also within Quebec.” This marked a shift from the federal government’s tradition and Constitutional obligation to respect the equality of our official languages to an approach that would consider French a minority language in need of differential treatment under the law. An example of this change; Ottawa is proposing creating

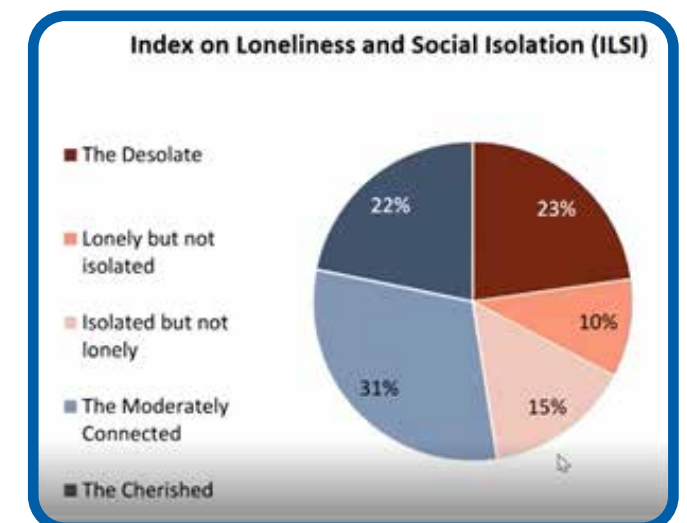
new language of work and language of service rights for federally regulated businesses operating in Quebec and areas with a significant Francophone population, for Francophones only, not for English-speaking workers and clients. Other aspects of the federal proposal could seriously affect the way the Constitutional language rights of English-speaking Quebecers are interpreted by the courts.

The ESCC has been a member organization of the Quebec Community Groups Network since the QCGN’s creation in 1995. This past year has seen both staff and Board of the ESCC partner with the QCGN in its efforts to raise awareness of the new challenges to the vitality of the English-speaking community of Quebec. The Executive Director of the ESCC was elected to the Board of the QCGN in November 2020, serves on the Communications Committee of the QCGN and has been actively engaged with meeting a wide range of individuals and community groups who have an interest in and concern for these pressing matters of linguistic and legal rights.



Animating

As the result of the Covid-19 restrictions put in place in the spring of 2020, the Council was forced to cancel the public lecture that had been scheduled to take place on March 26, 2020. The Council re-organized the event for a Zoom format, and *Social Isolation and the Lessons of Lockdown* was held on December 3, 2020. The event featured Milton Friesen, General Manager CitiIQ, who presented the results of the 2019 Angus Reid study of loneliness in Canada and teased out the effects of the Covid restrictions on social isolation and the well-being of the population. The event included a panel discussion involving Vanessa Herrick of Seniors Action Quebec, Talitha Lemoine of Catholic Christian Outreach and Cathie Macaulay of Pastoral Home Care, of the Archdiocese of Montreal. 55 attendees benefitted from the reflections and information shared by the speaker and panelists.





Assisting Seniors

The Council has continued to be an active participant in the meetings and committees of the One Voice Coalition, the association of organizations working with and for English-speaking seniors in the Greater Montreal Area. In order to support One Voice, the ESCC collaborated on consultations with English-speaking seniors that focused on their experience of access to health and social services in English. The Council is a co-funder of the project with the Community Health & Social Services Network (CHSSN), and has assisted in its organization and provided material support through provision of its online survey and video-conferencing platforms. The desired outcome of these consultations is that One Voice would be provided with a focus for its efforts in assisting and advocating for the clients of its member organizations.

Newcomers



The results of the parish survey, *Parishes & Newcomers*, implemented by the ESCC between 2018 – 2020, highlighted the needs of newcomers, particularly young families, in the first years of their new life in Canada. Respondents overwhelmingly asked for language classes and workshops on adjusting to life in Canada within the parish context. As a follow-up to the distribution of the survey, the Council ran a focus group in May 2020 with parishioners from St. John Brebeuf. One of the participants stated that she needed "...to have someone to help the kids with their French. Even if I speak French, but I'm not so good to teach them French...and I received so much papers at the beginning. I could not understand it. Even in English, I could just take a picture, translate it and not understand it."

After a meeting with the pastor of St. John Brebeuf in September 2020,

plans were laid for the provision of workshops for newcomers and the establishment of homework drop-in clinics at the parish. This project was planned to commence in the winter of 2021, but given the second wave of the virus and the resulting lockdown measures, those plans were placed on hold. In the interim, the ESCC organized and hosted two Zoom workshops, which provided information for newcomers. On February 27, 2021, the Canadian Revenue Agency animated a workshop on newcomers and the Canadian tax system. On March 27, 2021, Marcelo Taboada animated a workshop on the Canadian banking system for newcomers.

The Council is excited by the possibilities of continuing and expanding partnerships with English-speaking parishes to support and integrate newcomers to Quebec.

Celebrating 40 Years of ESCC





Community Resources

ACRA
Association of Catholic Retired Administrators
www.acracan.org

Adult Religious Education Services
www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services

Aid to the Church in Need
www.acn-canada.org

Almage Senior Community Centre
www.almage.org

Ancient Order of Hibernians
www.aoh-montreal.com

Auberge Madeleine
www.aubergemadeleine.org

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Foundation
www.batshawfoundation.ca

Benedict Labre House
www.benedictlabre.org

Camp Caritas
www.campcaritas.ca

Camp Kinkora
www.campkinkora.com

Canadian Centre for Ecumenism
www.oikoumene.ca

Catholic Action Montreal
www.catholicaction.ca

Catholic Charismatic Services of Montreal

Catholic Christian Outreach

Catholic Times Montreal Inc. (archives)

Catholic Women's League of Canada

CCS – Collective Community Services
www.ccs-montreal.org

Centre for Reproductive Loss
www.crl-rho.org

Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Montreal

Citizen Advocacy Montreal
www.parrainagemontreal.org

City House Foundation
www.sacredheart.qc.ca

Commissioner of Official Languages

Communion and Liberation
www.ca.en.clonline.ca

Community Health and Social Services Network
www.chssn.org

Concordia University Catholic Student Association (CUCSA)
www.facebook.com/cucsa

Consensus Mediation Centre (CMC)
www.consensusmediation.org

Couples for Christ (CFC)

Crib and Cross Franciscan Ministries
www.cribandcross.org

Dans La Rue (Le Bon Dieu)
www.danslarue.org

Department of Theological Studies, Concordia University
<https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/theology.html>

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada
www.devp.org

Diocesan Camping Association (DCA)

DCA: Family Camp
www.dfc-kinkora.ca

DCA: Liturgy Camp
www.campdlc.com

DCA: Visions Camp
www.visionscamp.com

DCA: Youth in Action Camp
www.youthinactioncamp.ca

Diocesan Centre for Marriage, Life and the Family (DCMLF)

Diocesan Office for Faith Education
www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services-resources/faith-education.html

Diocesan Priesthood Guild of Montreal (DPG)

Diocesan Social Action Ministry Group

Diocesan Youth Ministry Office
www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services-resources/youth-ministry.html

Dominus Vobiscum Family Retreat Centre
www.newmancentre.org/dominusvobiscum.ca

Don Bosco Mission Office
www.dbmo.ca

En Route Foundation
www.ca.en.clonline.org

Executives Available

Family Matters / The Marriage Workshop
www.letstalkaboutlove.ca

Father Dowd Foundation

Father Dowd Residence

Father Dowd Residence Auxiliary

Foundation of Catholic Community Services Inc.
www.fccsmontreal.org

Holy Cross Residence

Ignatian Spirituality Centre of Montreal
www.ignatiancentremtl.ca

Institute For Christian Communities

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office (JPIC)
www.jpic-visitation.org

Knights of Columbus

L'Abri en Ville
www.labrienville.org

L'Arche Montreal Inc.
www.larche-montreal.org

Legion of Mary – Montreal Curia

Logifem Inc.
www.logifem.org

Loyola Alumni Founding Chapter
www.concordia.ca/alumni-friends

Loyola High School
www.loyola.ca

Loyola High School Alumni and Associates
www.loyola.ca

Loyola High School Foundation
www.loyola.ca

Marriage Preparation (Diocesan)

Marriage Tribunal

MECUM Contemplative Christian Community

MEDITATIO - The Canadian Christian Meditation Community
www.wccm-canada.ca

Montreal Challenge Movement
www.montrealchallenge.ca

Montreal Directed Retreats
www.montrealretreats.org

Montreal English Catholic Cursillo Movement

Montreal Pro-Life
www.prolifemtl.org

Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation

Nazareth Community
Nazareth House & Anne's House
www.nazarethcommunity.com

Newman Association of Montreal Inc.
www.newmancentre.org

Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel
www.marguerite-bourgeois.com

Notre Dame de Sion Elementary School (Bilingual)
www.ebnds.ca

Office for English Pastoral Services (O.E.P.S.)
www.diocesemontreal.org/en

Pastoral Home Care Services (S.A.S.M.A.D. – English Sector)
www.facebook.com/pastoralhomeca-reservices

Peace, Freedom and Healing Ministry
www.fatherlou.com

Pillars Trust Fund Inc.
www.pillarstrust.org

Quebec Community Groups Network
www.qcgn.ca

Quebec Life Coalition
www.cqv.qc.ca

Residence Projet Chance Inc.

Sacred Heart School of Montreal
www.sacredheart.qc.ca

Saint Antoine 50+ Community Centre

Salesian Youth Centre (Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre)
www.dylc.com

Social Justice Connection
www.sjc-cjs.org

St. Margaret Residence

St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary

St. Mary's Hospital Centre
www.smhc.qc.ca

St. Mary's Hospital Foundation
www.stmaryshospitalfoundation.ca

St. Patrick Development Foundation (St. Patrick Square)
www.spsquare.ca

St. Patrick's Society of Montreal
www.spsmtl.com

The Alpha Course

The Priory School (Elementary)
www.priory.qc.ca

The Teapot 50 Plus Centre
Lachine Senior Citizens
www.theteapot.org

Theologia Book Ministry
www.theologia.ca

Thomas More Institute
www.thomasmore.qc.ca

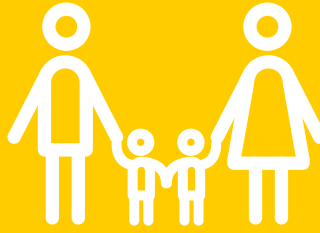
United Irish Societies of Montreal Inc.
www.montrealirishparade.com

Villa Maria Foundation

Vila Maria High School
www.villamaria.qc.ca

West Island Citizen Advocacy
www.volunteerwica.com

Worldwide Marriage Encounter (ME)
www.wwme.org



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Contact Information

English Speaking Catholic Council
1857 de Maisonneuve Blvd W.
Montréal QC H3H 1J9

Tel: (514) 937-2301, ext. 252 or 256

escc@bellnet.ca
www.catholiccouncil.ca

Funding Provided by



Pillars Trust Fund



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Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation