

Board of Directors'

Highlights

FEBRUARY 2021

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Justice James Higgins Award Winner



Archbishop Bolen will receive the Higgins Award at the 2022 AGM/Convention

The Board is pleased to announce that Archbishop Donald Bolen from Saskatchewan is this year's recipient of the prestigious Justice James Higgins Award. The award is given annually to an individual or group who have made an outstanding contribution to Catholic education in Canada.

Archbishop Bolen will be recognized in person at CCSTA's 2022 AGM/Convention in Blue Mountain, ON. Further details on his achievements will appear in a subsequent CCSTA newsletter, and in the 2021 AGM/Convention program.



Government Relations

With the move to virtual meetings, the annual Lobby Day on Parliament Hill was spread out over two weeks. One positive result of the meetings being held virtually was that it allowed the Board to meet with a greater number of MPs. A total of 18 meetings were held between February 2-10. The feedback from the meetings was extremely positive.

In addition, Garnett Genuis, MP for the Sherwood Park-Fort Saskatchewan (AB) riding, hosted a roundtable discussion with the Board, where a number of relevant topics were discussed, including concerns with the definition of Conversion Therapy in Bill C-6. CCSTA will follow up with background information that can be shared with all trustees. Following the roundtable, Mr. Genuis organized a 30 minute event entitled "From Virtual to Virtuous". CCSTA President, Paula Scott, acted as the moderator, His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins, provided introductory remarks, Fr. Stefano Penna, Board Chaplain, offered a reflection on Blessed Carlo Acutis, Catholic Education and Technology, and Garnett Genuis wrapped up the event with closing remarks. Forty-three people from across Canada joined us.



**CANADIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES COMMISSAIRES D'ÉCOLES CATHOLIQUES**



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“Enlivened by the Word of God and our tradition, we promote and protect the right to Catholic education in Canada. We speak as one.”

AGM/Convention Updates



The 2021 AGM/Convention Logo was approved by the board

The 2021 AGM/Convention theme “in God’s word I hope” (Psalm 130:5) “j’espère le Seigneur, et j’attends sa parole” was approved by the board.

The event will be held virtually on June 3-4, 2021. Two presentations will be held June 3 between noon and 3:00 p.m. (EST). Judy Burnham, the founder and principal for the past 20 years at Divine Mercy School in New Brunswick will speak at 12:30 p.m., and His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins, will speak at 2:00 p.m. The AGM business meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. (EST) on June 4. There will be no charge for either day. Information will be posted on the CCSTA website closer to the date and email invitations will be sent directly to all trustees.

Planning is underway for the 2022 AGM/Convention in Blue Mountain, Ontario, and the 2023 AGM/Convention in Saskatoon, SK.

Communications Update

Communications continues to be a priority for CCSTA. CCSTA recently added a French twitter account, and our English twitter following has increased by 51% over the last two years. CCSTA’s twitter handles are as follows:

[English - @CCSTAconnect](#)

[French - @ACCEC_CCSTA](#)



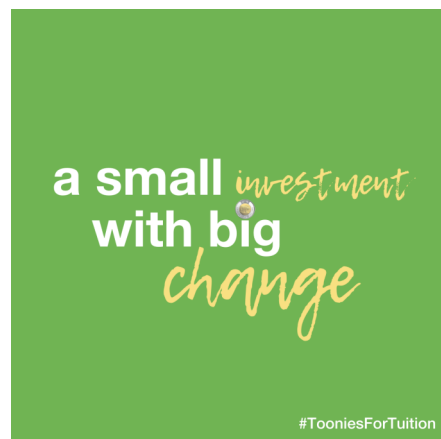
A proposal to update the CCSTA website was reviewed and approved by the board. This will move the CCSTA website from Joomla to WordPress, resulting in a more usable, responsive and accessible design which is more easily updated.

Toonies for Tuition Campaign

Consistent with charitable foundations across the country, the campaign saw total donations drop over the past year. Given that many schools were closed for a good portion of the year, this isn't surprising. That said, a total of \$21,619 has been raised for distribution this fall, with any additional funds being received between now and May to be added to the total. The funds assist families in need in provinces with limited or no public funding for Catholic Education.

A big thank you to all who were able to contribute, as you can appreciate the need for support is greater than ever.

If you are able to hold a fundraising campaign and are looking for ideas, please visit the [CCSTA website](#) for more information.



Vivifiés par la parole de Dieu et notre tradition, nous veillons à promouvoir et à protéger le droit à l'éducation catholique au Canada. Nous parlons d'une même voix.

Audited Financial Statements

The auditor's report and financial statements were received by the board for review at the AGM.

In 2020, CCSTA incurred a profit of \$40,566, largely due to meetings being held virtually as a consequence of COVID-19.