



Canadian Catholic Schools Trustees' Association NEWSLETTER

December 2022



CCSTA 2022



#TooniesForTuition

Because of the significant loss in Toonies fundraising across the country, there are currently more families than ever who apply for funding through Toonies but don't receive it because of the limited amount we have to give out.

Donate Today.

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Highlights of our 2022 year at CCSTA



FEBRUARY 2022

Our February board meetings included an excellent roundtable hosted by Garnett Genuis, MP for the Sherwood Park-Fort Saskatchewan (AB) riding. Topics focused on issues related to Religious Freedom, including possible threats to the charitable status of Religious Organizations. During our meetings, we approved a new Communications plan to reach a broader audience and we also announced that our [2022 Higgins Award posthumous winner would be Joan Carr.](#)

SEPTEMBER 2022

[CCSTA Encourages Canadian schools to participate in Planet Fraternity](#) - an initiative of the Church to create global connections between schools and work together for the betterment of humanity.

OCTOBER 2022



Fall Board meetings were held virtually and board members approved new Toonies for Tuition theme for the 2022 / 2023 School Year.

MAY 2022

Launched CCSTA's presence on Instagram and Facebook!

The Vatican released its newest document on Catholic Education highlighting the importance of [Catholic Identity](#) and Dialogue

JUNE 2022

Board meetings and a virtual AGM were held featuring [two excellent keynote speakers](#) and a theme inspired by Pope Francis' call to be a "synodal" church. We presented three Higgins Awards to our 2020, 2021 and 2022 recipients!



NOVEMBER 2022

We highlighted two real-life stories of Canadian Catholic Educators making a difference in their communities. Click below to read!

1. [Dr. Carolyn Barry - Toonies Stories from a non-funded province](#)

2. [Cynthia Launière - Indigenous Education initiatives in Calgary](#)

2023 CCSTA AGM & Convention

June 1 - 3, 2023  Saskatoon, SK

Conference information and registration details coming **very soon!**
Mark your calendar for this in-person event -
we can't wait to see you!



A Heartfelt Thank You

Jean, our CCSTA Executive Assistant is retiring and we wanted to express our sincere gratitude for her incredible dedication to our organization.



DEAR JEAN, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY DEEP GRATITUDE FOR YOUR MANY YEARS OF FAITH FILLED, DEDICATED AND OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF THE MISSION OF THE CANADIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION. I PRAY THAT OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST SHOWS YOU WITH ALL OF HIS BLESSINGS AND THAT YOU HAVE A RETIREMENT FILLED WITH GOOD HEALTH AND MUCH JOY. PAT DALY, CCSTA PRESIDENT

HI JEAN, I WILL DEARLY MISS YOU. THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP OVER THE YEARS WITH BOOKING MY FLIGHTS, ACCOMMODATIONS AND EXPENSE CLAIMS.. THE LIST COULD GO ON! I COULD ALWAYS GET AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO MY MANY QUESTIONS, THE TIME OF DAY WAS NEVER AN ISSUE ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE 3 HOUR TIME CHANGE. I APPRECIATED YOUR PATIENCE AND HUMOUR! COLLEEN EASSON, BC



JEAN MONTMINY IS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE THAT EVERY ORGANIZATION SEEKS FOR, CREATES "IDEAL CANDIDATE" POSITION STATEMENTS FOR AND HOPES THEY ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO INCLUDE IN THEIR STAFF LISTINGS. JEAN GIVES EVERY INDIVIDUAL AND EVERY QUESTION THE FULL RESPECT IT DESERVES AND MAINTAINS THE DIGNITY OF BOTH THOSE SHE INTERACTS WITH, AND OF CCSTA. MY MOST GRATEFUL THANKS GO TO JEAN FOR THE SUPPORT SHE HAS GIVEN ME DURING MY TIME WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. HARRY SALM, AB

DEAR JEAN, IT HAS BEEN MY PLEASURE TO HAVE MET YOU THROUGH CCSTA. OUR PATHS HAVE CROSSED THROUGH THE YEARS AT OUR CCSTA CONFERENCES AND NOW IN MY POSITION AS A DIRECTOR. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR DEDICATED WORK THROUGH THE YEARS. YOU ARE AN AMAZING LADY AND I WISH YOU ALL THE VERY BEST IN YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS. BEV ECKENSWELER, ON

JEAN, YOU'VE BEEN AN ABSOLUTE JOY TO WORK WITH. YOU HAVE AN ABUNDANCE OF PATIENCE AND KINDNESS AND YOUR DEDICATION TO CCSTA HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY INSPIRING TO ALL OF US. PRAYING THIS MUCH-DESERVED NEW SEASON OF RETIREMENT IS FILLED WITH NEW BLESSINGS AND JOYS! CATHERINE BURNHAM, COMMUNICATIONS

THANK YOU, JEAN, FOR THE MANY YEARS OF DEDICATION TO CCSTA. YOUR KNOWLEDGE, ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS, AND POSITIVE PRESENCE HELP US GOVERN AND OPERATE AT THE BOARD LEVEL. ON BEHALF OF MANITOBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, AND SUPERINTENDENT, ROBERT PRAZNIK, I WISH YOU A WONDERFUL AND MEANINGFUL RETIREMENT! MAY GOD GRANT YOU AND DON GOOD HEALTH AND ENERGY AS YOU FOLLOW HIS PATH ANEW!

TERESITA CHIARELLA, CCSTA VICE PRESIDENT

I CAN'T THANK JEAN ENOUGH FOR THE YEARS OF SERVICE SHE HAS GIVEN TO CCSTA. SHE HAS WORKED WITH MANY TRUSTEES OVER THE YEARS WITH GRACE, CARE, AND PATIENCE. SHE HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO ENSURING THE NATIONAL VOICE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IS WELL SUPPORTED. I HAVE GREATLY APPRECIATED HER SENSE OF HUMOR AND POSITIVITY. WHILE JEAN WILL BE MISSED, I WISH HER MANY BLESSINGS IN THE YEARS AHEAD. GOD BLESS YOU, JEAN AND THANK YOU. PAULA SCOTT, SK

HELLO JEAN! WHAT A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE IT HAS BEEN WORKING WITH YOU. I HAVE REALLY APPRECIATED YOUR KIND AND PATIENT SUPPORT TO ME AS ONE OF THE "NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK". MY PRAYERS AND WISHES ARE THAT YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL RETIREMENT AND GET TO DO ALL THE OTHER THINGS YOU LOVE DOING. MAY IT BE FULL OF JOY AND HAPPINESS. GOD BLESS. GIUSEPPI CALIGIURI, MB

WHATEVER COMES NEXT FOR YOU, MAY IT BRING YOU THE SAME JOY AND FULFILLMENT AS YOU BROUGHT TO US! MELINDA CHARTRAND, ON FRENCH

JEAN, YOU'VE ALWAYS GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND TO MAKE SURE WE FEEL INCLUDED OUT HERE IN ATLANTIC CANADA! THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND DEDICATION TO THE CAUSE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION! WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST AND GOD'S GREATEST BLESSINGS IN YOUR RETIREMENT! MYRIAM DOBBELSTEYN, ATLANTIC CANADA



President's Message



PATRICK DALY
CCSTA President



“From the Galilean hills explode a hope, a promise, a guarantee.”

In their recent Pastoral letter to young people, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops write:

**“God loves you!”
“Christ saves you!” and
“The Holy Spirit lives in you!”**

What a privilege and awesome responsibility we as Catholic School Trustees have in supporting parents, parishes and staff in sharing this hope, guarantee and promise with the young people/students who attend Catholic schools across Canada. I hope that particularly during this Advent and Christmas season, you will take time to reflect on the significant positive difference your leadership, witness and service makes in the realization of the mission of Catholic education. From the smallest Catholic school to the largest Catholic school board, each of you are to be commended for your commitment to “place Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church at the centre” of the learning experiences of over 800,000 students/young people who attend Catholic schools in our country. On behalf of the CCSTA Board of Directors, I thank you for your valuable service and for your important support for our National Association.

I would like to recognize and express deep appreciation to Jean Montminy. Following many years of dedicated and exemplary service, Jean will soon be retiring as the CCSTA Administrative Assistant. We thank you Jean for the significant contribution you have made to Catholic education and pray that you have a retirement filled with good health and much joy.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2023 CCSTA Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon. On behalf of the Board of Directors and our dedicated staff, I pray that you, your families and the Catholic schools (systems) you serve have a Blessed Advent and a Happy and Holy Christmas.





From the Office Desk

JULIAN HANLON

CCSTA Executive Director

As the end of 2022 approaches, it would be nice to reflect back on the past year and say everything is back to normal. Part of the challenge is defining what the new normal will be. There is no doubt COVID has had, and will have, a lasting impact on all aspects of our lives. The good news is that most students are back in school and able to participate in not only in-class learning, but most extracurricular activities as well. There is no doubt that virtual learning is here to stay, and does provide a valuable option for some students; however, the benefits of in-class learning can't be underestimated.

A good example of the benefits of being in a school environment is the opportunity for students and staff to celebrate the Christmas season. It is always one of my favourite times of year to visit a school, when the Christmas events and activities are a true pleasure to watch. Just as important are the Christmas liturgies and the opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of the Christmas season.

Looking ahead, we are excited about our upcoming Lobby Day in Parliament Hill on January 31. For the first time in three years, we will be able to have face-to-face meetings with MPs from across the country. In an attempt to reach a greater number of MPS, we will also add a virtual component and spread the meetings out over a couple of weeks. The main purpose of these meetings is to ensure that our federal MPs have an understanding of the positive impact Catholic Education has across the country.

Planning for our 2023 AGM/Convention is well underway. It will be our first face-to-face meetings in three years. The early indication is that trustees across the country are excited about being able to renew acquaintances and meet with other trustees. The AGM/Convention will take place in Saskatoon on June 1-3. Registration information will be available in January.

With students back in school, we are optimistic that fundraising activities for our Toonies for Tuition will increase. Additional information and testimonials are available on our website.

Once again, the Catholic Education Community has demonstrated it is capable of meeting the many challenges it faces and continues to provide our students with a quality education that is second to none.

In closing, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best in 2023.



Chaplain's Advent Message



Father Stefano Penna
CCSTA Chaplain

“Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, He comes with vindication; with divine recompense He comes to save you. – He comes to save you” (Is. 35:6)

Goodness, did I need Gaudete Sunday this year. Catholic Education in Canada – one of the most critical places in which the Gospel of Jesus Christ meets a society that is less and less interested in it – is such an exhausting ministry. The challenges are well known to all of us. Funding, staffing, formation, lingering pandemic effects on mental and physical health, family struggles, and radically anti-Christian secularism, seem like the wolves at the door. To top it all off, at the very instant when strength of faith is required, an ever-diminishing small fraction of our teachers, administrators, and families practice their faith in a regular way. What is a trustee to do? What is a priest to do?

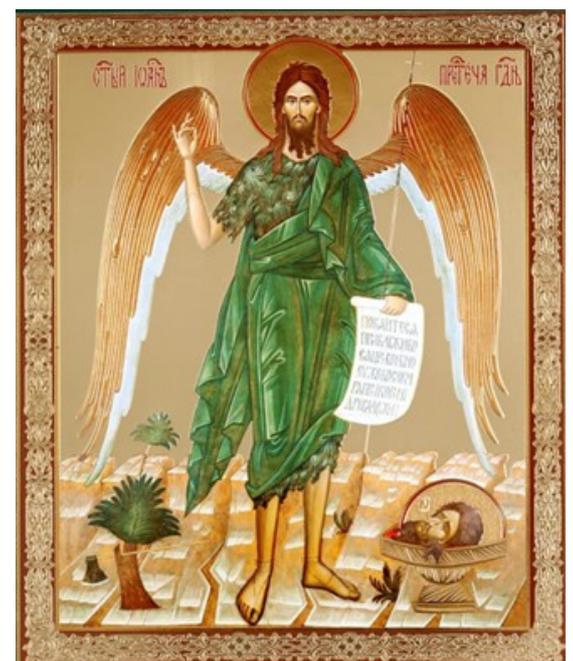
These challenges are precisely why the Eucharist is so vital to us. We were created so that we can love and worship God. Only in Jesus is that fully possible. The Eucharist lifts our minds and our hearts from being focused on the challenges that narrow our gaze to the wider vision of living in God. From the small screens of our cell phones our eyes are directed towards the great horizon of seeing things with Godly eyes. To see the whole (which is what ‘Catholic’ means) is to see truly. To see the eyes of Jesus is to see ourselves who we really are, and to see through Jesus’ eyes is to love.

And so Joy Sunday – the Rose Candle on the Advent Wreath – this year brought John the Baptist back into our lives – pointing to Jesus again. Betrayed over and over again in our plans for our families and for life, we hear this prophet “of whom none born of a woman is greater announce, “He comes to save you, here is your God.” A prophet reminding us that only Jesus – not any ideology, or job, or possession, or position or person – only Jesus is “the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”

But this year, in Matthew’s Gospel, we encounter the Baptist doing this in a strange way because he is in jail, put there because the government of his time did not like his challenge to their immoral policies. Sound familiar? So, from his cell, John the Baptist sends us out with his two disciples to ask Jesus, God-come-to-save-us, a question:

“Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another”. (Matt. 11:11)

Stop for a minute. Is this not a strange question coming from the one who announced the coming of the Messiah? Did he not already point to Jesus and proclaim, “I should be baptized by you?”(John 1:29)? Was he doubting Jesus? That would be strange.



Chaplain's Advent Message (continued)

One of our Church's great teachers, St. John Chrysostom, gives a clear explanation: facing his death, John knew that there was jealousy and resentment amongst his followers (who hoped he was the Messiah) towards the followers of Jesus. He also knew that if he simply told them, "Jesus is the Messiah", they would just dismiss this as John being humble. So, John set them up by sending them (two - the most skeptical?) to see what Jesus is doing. Aha, this is why among teachers there is "none greater" than John. He knows that witnessing is better than just hearing. The last prophet of the Law of Israel sends his disciples - sends us - not to hear words but the deeds that proclaim the fulfilment of the Old Law in the Gospel of God's Mercy. Jesus is the Gospel of God's Mercy.

This is our way of teaching. Jesus is not an 'idea' that each of us get to argue about. To teach about Jesus is not to speculate about "what would Jesus do". Wake up! Catholic Education and its Gospel is imaginatively in a prison when it comes to our young teachers and students. Far more influential in the life of most teenagers is social media. Young adults - our students and teachers - spend much more time watching pornography than studying scripture. What are mere words or mission statements in the face of this whole new way of shaping togetherness?

Well, there is the John the Baptist way of teaching. Get the young to ask the right question of everything that comes promising meaning and happiness, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" And then show them the deeds of Jesus.

How - this Icon of John the Baptist lets us know.

Look at this Icon. The Baptizer is shown with wings. Why? Because he is the announcer, the messenger, sent by God to proclaim Jesus' Coming. The Greek word for announcer is ANGELOS from which we get "angel" - hence, the wings. We too, our schools, and every one charged with education are seen by God in this way. No, we are not angels, but we do the 'wing-work' of those who point to Jesus and announce, "Here is your God". The Icon teaches us more.

John is also the ANGELOS of the judgment of God, "ax is lying at the root of the trees" (Matt. 3:10) - can you see this in the corner of the icon? This is the way of preparing our young by giving them the right questions to ask. Put the ax to the root of the trees - cut away all the dead growth that masquerades as life. Cut away pornography and the way it makes the body an object to be used for individual pleasure and identity speculation. Cut away the euphemisms about 'MAiD' that leads society to see assisted suicide for mental illness, for children, for veterans, for the elderly as 'health care'. 'Be strong, fear not!' is the word of Joy Sunday.

The Icon also shows us the consequences for being the ANGELOS of the truth. In the right corner, John's severed head lies on platter of Salome - a brutal father's gift to a spoiled child - an indulgence that protects his position. So it is always for cowards. Herod and Salome lived in paranoid fear. Worldly power demands one always look over one's shoulder. You accept the coin of the king, you sing the king's song. And the song of earthly kings is the song of cowards. Pornography instead of real relationships, MAiD instead of meaningful palliative care. Trying to keep our children 'safe' by indulging them in distraction is to leave them to the fate of Salome. She was eventually sold off for marriage to an old king, a better fate than her brothers whom Herod had killed.



Chaplain's Advent Message (continued)

So to for us, called to be ANGELOI (do you see the wings on your back already?) of Jesus. There is the probability that our heads as well will rest on a platter. John awaited his death with Joy, knowing that the Messiah had come. We await whatever comes with joy as well – because we have seen the greatest deed of Jesus. We have seen Him place not just His head but His whole body on a platter – the Cross. Where? Every time the priest lifts the paten upon which the Body and Blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ, and offer it to God only to turn and offer Him to us – we witness the greatest deed of Jesus.

This is the Joy of Catholic Education. We are not people just of words but of deeds. The essence of Catholic Education is to bring our families and friends to see the great deed of Jesus. Jesus giving sight to the blind, teaching the lame to walk, setting lepers free. And the greatest deed of all is the Holy Mass – the Eucharist. It has since the beginning been the fundamental way of encountering Jesus and His Deeds.

I pray that your witness and words will invite with quite insistence your families and friends to come to Holy Mass, come to see the rag-tag group of seeing blind, walking lame, lepers loved, sinners forgiven, and poor ones filled with Good News.

To come and discover what it is like to have wings.





2022 CCSTA Report Catholic Independent Schools Committee of BC



Catholic schools across the province report a stable enrolment.

Staffing

There have been challenges hiring teachers and educational assistants this year. The schools were blessed to be able to fill most of the staff by the start of the school year.

Catholic Independent Schools Diocese of Victoria have posted for a superintendent with a closing date of October 15th.

Catholic Independent Schools Archdiocese of Vancouver is searching for a new Superintendent. The closing date of November 29th 2022.

The construction and rebuild of St Andrew's Regional High School in Victoria has been completed.

FISA - Federation of Independent Schools Association

In early 2022, FISA became aware of a federal grant that was being distributed to provinces to support air quality in schools (Air Quality Approval Grant). FISA successfully advocated for independent school participation in this grant, as they felt this addresses the health and wellbeing issues that are applicable to all BC students.

On August 29th the Ministry of Education and Child Care announced the establishment of a targeted Student and Family Support grant for the K - 12 sector (\$60 million to public schools and \$3.8 million to Independent Schools). Discussions with the Ministry have been initiated and follow up discussions with the FISA Officers took place two weeks ago. There will be further discussions to follow to determine the distribution and allocation of this grant.

Reconciliation -

This year's theme is "Seeking Truth, Healing and Reconciliation". The theme is for all of our Catholic Independent Schools in the province. The artist who created the logo is Stuart Pagaduan, a Coast Salish artist and cultural and language teacher.

On September 20th all 76 Catholic Independent School Principals of BC met in Vancouver with Dr. Deborah MacNamara. She gave a presentation on "Cultivating Relationally Focused and Trauma Sensitive Schools". This will be followed up with monthly virtual conversations that seek to move theory into practice.





Alberta-Northwest Territories-Yukon

Since our June Provincial Report to CCSTA, the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association has been engaged in a number of critical activities.

Following direction from our members at the previous ACSTA Annual General Meeting, our Governance Committee is currently reviewing the Association's Bylaws. Our legal counsel has also reviewed their work for compliance with the Alberta Societies Act, under which our organization is governed. This work will be concluded prior to this year's AGM, and will be presented to the membership for ratification.

Our AGM is scheduled for November 18-20 at the Chateau Lacombe in Edmonton. In conjunction with our provincial partners (CCSSA, GrACE and the Bishops of Alberta), and building on the work of the Synod and the Holy Father's historic visit to Alberta this summer, we have selected the theme "Walking Together in Catholic Education" for the duration of the 2022-23 school year. This theme is accompanied by the Scripture passage, "As for us, we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever" (Micah 4:5). ACSTA was pleased to present a revised and updated website design this September. Included in the changes was expanded access to the members' section of the site, where our bylaws, policies, approved meeting minutes, and agenda can be viewed. We have also included a blog on the homepage where we publish articles written by Bishops, Trustees, administrative leaders and others - please feel welcome to read and share this content on your social media channels.

In the interest of fostering reconnection and increased transparency with our membership following what we hope has been the peak of the pandemic, ACSTA has been actively trying to meet with all of our member boards in-person. In September we had the opportunity to hold our quarterly Board of Directors meeting at the administration building of Elk Island Catholic School Division in Sherwood Park, which allowed us to have lunch with their board and work closely together with staff from the division. Shortly thereafter, the Executive team visited Evergreen and St. Albert Catholic boards at their offices just outside of Edmonton, as well as Grande Prairie and Holy Family further north.

It is a turbulent time in provincial politics for Alberta. The United Conservative Party is currently engaged in a leadership race to replace the sitting Premier, Mr. Jason Kenney. As a result, the ACSTA Executive Committee has been involved in meeting with the various leadership candidates in order to understand their vision for education in Alberta, as well as to provide them with some education around our separate schools system and the constitutionally protected right to fully-funded Catholic education. The current Minister of Education is a former President of the ACSTA, Adriana LaGrange, and so we will be watching closely for a cabinet shuffle after the race concludes on October 6. The next provincial election is scheduled for May 2023.





SASKATCHEWAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION CCSTA REPORT, DECEMBER 2022

Communications:

Good News stories are still being posted to the SCSBA website and are being tweeted out to increase exposure of the stories and to drive some traffic to the website. Permeation materials are being further enhanced by inserting introductions and key words to make the grade level materials more easily searchable.

After a year of work, the SCSBA Board of Directors has approved a new logo for the Association. The logo has been posted to the website and gradually it will be used for all business and promotional materials. The Minister of Education for the Government of Saskatchewan has again been asked to proclaim Catholic Education Week in Saskatchewan. This year Catholic Education Week in Saskatchewan will be the week of May 14-21, 2023. A subcommittee of the Communications Committee has been formed to consider a campaign celebrating Catholic Division responses to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Advocacy:

The SCSBA which is a Section of the larger Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) reached an agreement governing the relationship between the two parties. In 2023 the terms of the agreement will be renegotiated with the new terms implemented in 2024.

Another edition of the Former Members Connection was sent out on November 30, 2022. The publication is an effort to keep former trustees and directors of education informed as to what is going on in Catholic Education in the province of Saskatchewan.

Catholic Congress Saskatchewan:

The Bishops of Saskatchewan still support the idea of a Catholic Congress in Saskatchewan. Now that the pandemic is essentially over, it is hoped that a decision to begin planning will shortly be made.

Indigenous Leadership Team:

In our ongoing efforts to address the calls to action under the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Education Committee of the SCSBA, made up of Directors of Education of the 8 Catholic School Divisions created a group presently called the Indigenous Leadership Team. This group is made up of division representatives for indigenous education. The group was tasked with creating materials for schools to use to help understand the Papal visit. An event was held on May 26, 2022, World Catholic Education Day. The group also prepared materials for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30.

2022 SCSBA AGM:



Saskatchewan (continued)

Since the CCSTA AGM and Convention is scheduled for 2023 in Saskatoon, Catholic Boards decided to save their faith development dollars to attend the CCSTA convention rather than to hold a full convention. Consequently, a simple AGM business meeting was held in conjunction with the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) Fall Assembly on November 14, 2022. At the AGM, Bruno Tuchscherer was acclaimed as President and Vicky Bonnell was acclaimed as Vice President. Jerome Niezgodka will serve as Past President and will be the Saskatchewan representative on the CCSTA Board of Directors.

An Awards Ceremony and Banquet was held Sunday afternoon on November 13 prior to the start of the SSBA Fall Assembly. The ceremony honoured awards winners from 2020, 2021 and 2022. The 2022 Appreciation Awards were awarded to Deacon Lamont Dyck from Holy Trinity Catholic Schools, and Ramona Stillar from Light of Christ Catholic Schools. The Julian Paslawski Meritorious Service Award was awarded to Jim Carriere (posthumously) from Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, and Gerald Beres from Light of Christ Catholic Schools, both long-time trustees with their respective divisions.

Pandemic Response:

Divisions are monitoring developments and are prepared to respond if the pandemic should rear itself again.





Report to the Canadian Catholic Schools Trustees Association

Pandemic

All our schools reopened in September with few restrictions. It is nice to see the return of normal activities and routines. There are still staff and student absences related to Covid as well as other viruses as many children were not exposed to them over the last few years. These have not yet impacted normal operations of the schools.

Catholic schools will have access to learning recovery funds this school year at the same rate as the public system. These funds can be used to support a variety of initiatives to address student needs in post pandemic recovery.

Political

The Province of Manitoba is currently finalizing plans on how they will finance public education. They are committed to removing the ability of public-school divisions to tax property. Currently rates differ from division to division based on residential and commercial assessments and divisional expenses. These taxes represent about one third of the cost of public schools and are currently being phased out through provincial rebates. The new formula will be based on funds coming directly from the provincial treasury but will need to account for different conditions throughout the province such as operating in the north and rural areas or where there are socio-economic factors. Currently, central bargaining has started for public school teachers whose contracts ended June 30th. The new provincial contract will replace the 37 negotiated contracts that formally existed with each school division. This is a difficult process as different salaries, benefits, and practices vary greatly across the province.

Catholic schools in Manitoba are not funded as public schools. We receive a grant directly from the province based on 50% of the cost of educating public school students (two years previous). While we are not directly part of the new formula, we will be impacted by how much the province will spend on public schools. In this school year we will receive \$6,183 per eligible full time student grades 1 - 12 and \$3,091.5 for kindergarten. Each school also receives \$60 per student for curricular materials.



Truth and Reconciliation

All Catholic schools in Manitoba were closed on September 30th for National Truth and Reconciliation Day. This followed a week of educational activities in the schools and is part of the ongoing path towards truth and reconciliation. All teachers and support staff over the last two years have completed the online training program 4 Seasons of Reconciliation that was developed by the First Nations University of Canada. We have signed an agreement to continue this training for all new staff. An Advisory Committee to the Superintendent on Truth and Reconciliation was formed last year to help support the efforts of the Manitoba Catholic Schools Office as we continue this journey. They have been very active in developing a resource base for teachers, surveying employees, and directing and planning our journey. Our annual Catholic Schools Day in-service in February will focus on the new provincial Indigenous Education Policy Framework - *Mamahtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With*. The Committee also helped develop our Land Acknowledgement, Statement of Commitment and guidelines for their use.

Land Acknowledgement

The Creator gifted us with this land that we are blessed to share and care for together. In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge that we live, work, learn, and play on Treaty 1 and 2 territories, the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene, the homeland of the Metis Nation and where some of our Inuit brothers and sisters now make their home.

Statement of Commitment

Manitoba Catholic Schools recognizes that all people are created in the image and likeness of God, and we promote safe and inclusive learning and working environments in which all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

Robert Praznik
Superintendent
Manitoba Catholic Schools





CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES:
Placing Christ at the Centre

OCSTA Report to CCSTA December 2022



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

OCSTA continues to advance the Association's priorities through a strong and consistent advocacy program. OCSTA President Patrick Daly and Executive Director Nick Milanetti meet with a number of Ontario MPPs, Cabinet Ministers and Ministry of Education officials to advance the stated priorities of Catholic school boards, including:

- Increased and multi-year funding in support of learning recovery and student mental health and well-being;
- Updating the capital construction benchmarks (particularly recognizing the extraordinary costs of northern and remote school boards);
- Increased flexibility and autonomy of Catholic school boards;
- Correcting the provincial property assessment system's school support designation mechanism - which currently defaults to "public";
- Revoking the regulation freezing Executive Compensation, and;
- The release of a fair, equitable and adequate student transportation funding model.

In addition to these efforts, the Association has made progress on the following:

·**Enhancing the Trustee professional development programming** with frequent and timely sessions including the recent OCSTA Trustee Orientation Series that included seminars on Robert's Rules of Order for effective School Board and Committee meetings, and Municipal Conflict of Interest Act considerations for Trustees;

·**Successful and valuable OCSTA Regional Meetings** - the fall Regional Meetings served as an important opportunity to gather in a spirit of fellowship, prayer and professional development. Appreciation was expressed for the excellent presentations delivered by OCSTA Executive Director Nick Milanetti and Director of Catholic Education, Anne O'Brien and the 5 host boards.

·**The development and release of distinctly Catholic on-line secondary courses** - through the strong leadership of Anne O'Brien, over 40 courses have been developed and released with a number of others in the writing phase - see details on the Catholic Virtual Ontario website: <https://www.catholicvirtualontario.org/>;

·**The development and release of the OCSTA 2023/2024 GSN Consultation Brief;** Of particular note in OCSTA's brief for next year's Grants for Student Needs (GSN) are sections on joint use of schools, executive compensation, student mental health, and capital costs (reducing the timeline for the completion of capital projects).

OCSTA's GSN submission can be viewed on the OCSTA website at the following location:

<https://www.ocsta.on.ca/ocsta/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2023-2024-GSN-Submission-FINAL-Nov-11-22-.pdf>

Enhancing professional development opportunities for Catholic School Board Communications Staff - OCSTA continues to hold an annual seminar for CDSB communications officers and managers that explores the unique communication goals of Catholic school boards and the skills and resources required by staff to develop and implement communications strategies that further the Mission and goals of Catholic education.



ONTARIO - OCSTA (continued)

Media Spokesperson Training for Catholic School Board Chairs

The Association recently hosted a virtual media spokesperson training seminar for Catholic school board Chairs. This is the third consecutive year that these sessions have been provided in a virtual format for Chairs and the response has been very positive.

Media Trainer Irene Bakaric comprehensively addressed various topics including: preparing for interviews; developing responses; and communicating effectively in different types of media.

Child and Youth Mental Health Coalition

OCSTA is one of the founding partners of the Ontario Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health ("The Coalition"). This coalition consists of a multi-sectoral network of provincial partners in education, mental health and addictions, health, public health, justice, community and social services, and research.

The Coalition works to promote integrated public policy on child and youth mental health and well-being.

Building on a foundation of recent evidence and calls for action from system partners, the Coalition developed a report reflecting the group's understanding of priority issues in three focus areas: system coordination; equity; and mental health promotion, early identification and prevention of mental health concerns.

The report provides recommendations to the government, for each of the focus areas and can be reviewed at the following link:

https://www.ocsta.on.ca/ocsta/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/FINAL-Lets-put-our-heads-together-2022_online-Nov-242022.pdf

UPCOMING EVENT:



CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES:
Placing Christ at the Centre

Catholic Trustees Seminar
January 20-21, 2023
Delta Hotels by Marriott - Toronto Airport

For program and registration information visit:

https://events.myconferencesuite.com/Catholic_Trustees_Seminar_2023/reg/landing



**ACTIVITY REPORT FOR
ACCEC / CCSTA**

Hello everyone,

Here is our summary of some of the activities the Association has accomplished since the last report submitted. The overview of activities for the past few months is grouped according to the main issues facing French-language Catholic school boards in Ontario, as well as the activities scheduled for the coming year.

1. A new representative for ACCEC – It is with great pleasure that Ms. Mélinda Chartrand, experienced school trustee in the Lincoln-Niagara region at CSC MonAvenir and representative of the AFOCSC provincial table, undertakes to represent us with ACCEC/CCSTA.

Trustee Chartrand is very involved and active in schools and communities. She was president of the CSC MonAvenir Board for several years, representative at the national level with the National Federation of Francophone School Boards, FNCSF, Fédération Nationale des Conseils Scolaires Francophones and on multiple working committees at the community level.

We are very happy that Mélinda Chartrand is the designated representative of the AFOCSC with ACCEC.

Many thanks to Langis Dion for his advocacy work with ACCEC over the past few years. Mr. Dion continues his work at the Association as the new Vice-President of our Board.

2. AFOCSC Convention and AGM in person – The end of May marked the return of face-to-face meetings for us with the AFOCSC annual convention which was held in Toronto.

It was therefore with great pleasure that we received our school trustees, as well as student trustees of all our school boards across the province. A great opportunity for reunion and rejoicing. A little over a hundred people came to participate in the two days of the convention.

Under the theme: Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together! the participants were able to enrich their knowledge on various training topics offered such as: A reflection on our catholicity and on "How to live reconciliation in our schools, our communities". Several dynamic workshops were also offered to delegates: "The development of community school", "Being Catholic today", "Collaboration begins with oneself: The 5 virtues of an ideal colleague", "Board-level leadership development strategy". Two workshops directed especially for student trustees: "Community Leadership" with a local provincial elected official and "How to live your Francophonie today and in the future!". A complete program that seems to have satisfied each of our participants.

In addition, during our gala, we recognized the contribution of many for their 15 years of service as French-language Catholic school trustees. Finally, our annual award of excellence, an award that recognizes the exceptional contribution of a French Catholic school trustee. This person contributes, or has contributed, in a remarkable way to the development of French-language Catholic education in Ontario. The award was presented to school trustee Mr André Bidal of the Nouvelon Catholic School Board in the Sudbury area. Mr. Bidal unfortunately passed away shortly after receiving this extremely well-deserved tribute.



3. School Year End Review 2021-2022— Pandemic and Ontario Plan to catch up – A significant slow down in contamination rates and the relaxation of pandemic control measures allowed for the school year end to be closer to normal.

The Government of Ontario has maintained various preventive measures in place while improving air quality in schools where possible with upgrades to the mechanical systems already in place or by equipping classes and premises that do not have central ventilation systems with portable HEPA filtration units.

The school year end went almost as normal with the return of end-of-year celebrations, graduations, diplomas ceremonies and end-of-year BBQs. Despite a few Covid cases here and there, there have been no major outbreaks requiring the closure of classes or schools.

However, the effects of two major years of disruption in the school environment due to the pandemic will require great efforts to catch up for some of the gains lost and to regain an educational environment comparable to the pre-pandemic period. With the summer holidays helping, we hope that everyone will have had the chance to replenish their energy to tackle the challenge of the future.

4. Provincial Elections – Ontario's Conservative government was re-elected with a strong majority in June 2022. With the majority of MPPs and ministers re-elected in their ridings, there were few surprises when the announcement of the new cabinet was made. Most being reconducted in their previous functions. The Minister of Education, Mr Stephen Lecce has been reappointed and will face, with back to school, the negotiations of the collective agreements which expires on August 31, 2022.

We begin this new term with several challenges for French-language Catholic school boards. Several issues directly or indirectly affecting equity and the rights of Francophones to a quality education equal to that of the Anglophone majority will be discussed with the new government to find win-win solutions for all.

Dossiers' like; new capital funding that meet the needs and priorities of school boards, quick solutions to address the teacher shortage which is seriously affecting the future of French-language education, a vision and fair funding for our online course programs, the resources required for students and staff to catch up after the pandemic are just a few of the important issues we will need to address.

5. Training programs – In the months of May, June and July, we held several training and recruitment programs for candidates for the next election on October 24th. Great efforts have been made to reach new clientele; parents of young families, candidates from diverse backgrounds and other candidates from our schools who would like to stand in the next elections have been contacted.

For the upcoming elections, 82 Catholic school trustee positions need to be filled. Of this number, 58 or 71% of the positions have been acclaimed and these experienced people will return as administrators in our eight school boards. So, there are 24 positions left that will be up for election and 41 candidates have offered to enter in the challenge. We will know more in a few weeks.

Thank you to all the school board trustees for their great work and community involvement over the past four years, good luck in your next mandate 2022-2026, which begins on November 15, and good luck to all those who are in elections the process!



6. Advocacy activities – The pandemic state and provincial elections continued to hamper meetings with our elected government officials. Despite everything, we managed to hold a few strategic meetings on our important files. Advocacy in virtual mode, although it has become the main way for our elected officials to meet their interest groups, remains distant and incomplete. However, it is important to recognize that this activity will never be the same again. New dynamic discussion models will have to be established between virtual mode and face-to-face meetings.

With municipal and school elections scheduled for October 2022, SFEM-MPAC continues its work to improve the data quality of its registration system to provide better access to voter data and registration.

The current municipal registration system continues to default to the English Public system, registering ratepayers who have not changed their property taxes to support the French-language Catholic system. This has a significant influence on the number of voters registered to vote correctly on October 24, 2022.

The AFOCSC works actively with school boards and trustees to raise the level of voter knowledge and continues to influence decision-makers for a change in this disadvantageous system for the representation of Francophones and Catholics.

7. Shortage of French Language teachers – teacher recruitment strategy – The implementation committee now headed by the Ministry did not hold any working meetings during the period. The report tabled more than a year ago pointed to a serious shortage of French-language teaching staff. This shortage curve is only increasing year after year.

The working table brings together representatives of the order of teachers, universities, unions, associations of school counselors and the ministry. Several initiatives have continued their development, such as recruitment from universities in France, relaxation of current regulations, more flexibility for our teaching candidates, better promotion of the profession and a few other avenues.

However, it remains very important to launch and fund major initiatives that will have a significant impact on recruitment and training, as the report's estimates indicate that at least 500 teachers should be trained and hired each year simply to meet the needs of schools of French language. This is without even considering the needs of the English system. Much remains to be done.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.
Be careful and stay healthy!

Melinda Chartrand

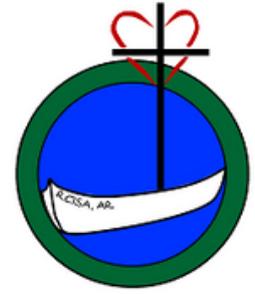
School Board Trustee CSC MonAvenir
AFOCSC Representant to ACCEC/CCSTA

Yves Lévesque

Executive Director
AFOCSC

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the Franco-Ontarian Catholic School Boards Association - AFOCSC is the voice of Ontario's eight French-language Catholic school boards and the Center Jules-Léger Consortium serving more than 77,000 Franco-Ontarian students across the province. Our school boards employ more than 11,200 support and teaching staff who work diligently in 300 schools to provide the best French-language Catholic education possible.





RCISA-AR Report 2022

Greetings from Atlantic Canada!

Our 5 Catholic schools have had an enthusiastic start to the 2022/23 year, as students and staff prepare for all the events, activities, sports, and learning that will take place in our communities. We are especially thankful to begin this year with a better sense of normalcy and regular programming, and we are excited for all the possibilities for growth in all areas of Catholic school life.

Sacred Heart Catholic School in Halifax, NS has welcomed a new Head of School this year, Dennis Phillips. He brings with him many years of experience at other Sacred Heart schools in the US, and we are thrilled to have him join our community here in Atlantic Canada.

This year is already promising to be a year full of new hope, joyful faith and strong academics. There are new programs starting such as a new Innovation Lab teaching tech, new Latin curriculum, as well as Mass being celebrated again each week in school chapels. Sports, choirs and clubs are also in full swing, rounding out our students' catholic education. Fundraising efforts are also underway, with dinners planned, gift card programs (AVGEN, Script), and programs to encourage monthly donations (Ignite), among others.

Our enrollment has remained steady, with about 1200 students currently attending.

We are most especially thankful for the support shown to our families through the Toonies for Tuition program. Many students benefit from the generosity of those who give to this program. We are deeply grateful for the impact it makes on our schools in Atlantic Canada.

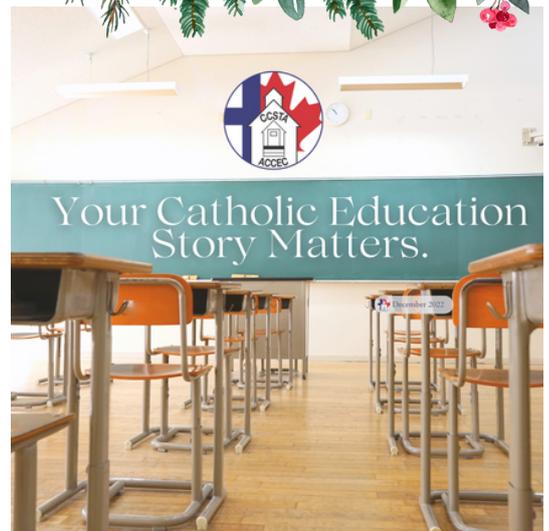




Share *Your* Story

WE'RE SEARCHING FOR INDIVIDUALS ACROSS THE COUNTRY WHO HAVE A GOOD NEWS STORY TO SHARE ABOUT CATHOLIC EDUCATION. THE TRUTH IS, OUR MISSION IS FILLED WITH PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN SHAPED AND FORMED BY THEIR TIME IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND WE WANT TO HIGHLIGHT THE AMAZING WORK OF THIS MISSION ACROSS THE COUNTRY. CONTACT CATHERINE, OUR COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS A STORY WE CAN HIGHLIGHT IN AN UPCOMING ARTICLE.

ccstacommunications@gmail.com



CCSTA ONLINE     CONNECT WITH US!

Welcome Michelle Collett!

Michelle will be replacing Jean as CCSTA's Executive Assistant in the new year - and we're delighted to have her join the team!

2022 -2023 Executive:

PATRICK DALY - President
PAULA SCOTT - Past President
TERESITA CHIARELLA - Vice President
FR. STEFANO PENNA - Chaplain
JULIAN HANLON - Executive Director

2022 -2023 Directors:

British Columbia: **Colleen Easson**
Alberta/NWT/Yukon: **Harry Salm**
Saskatchewan: **Jerome Niezgoda**
Manitoba: **Giuseppi Caligiuri**
Ontario French: **Melinda Chartrand**
Ontario English: **Bev Eckensweiler**
Ontario English: **Mark Mullan**
Atlantic Region: **Myriam Dobbelsteyn**




Merry
CHRISTMAS
& A HAPPY NEW YEAR