



Canadian Catholic Schools Trustees' Association NEWSLETTER

June 2023

"I CAN DO SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE"

2022-2023 MOTHER TERESA



Toonies
can make a difference

800,000
Students



90
School Boards

1
Mission



Enlivened by the Word of God and our tradition, we promote and protect the right to Catholic education in Canada.

We speak as one.



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DEAR FRIENDS IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION,

It's with tremendous gratitude that we look back on the 2022 - 2023 School Year.

For those of us who have been involved in Catholic Education for many years, the school years can seem to blend one into the next. It's easy to lose track of the years and distinguish one from another!

However, for each one of our 800,000 Catholic School students - each year plays a *unique* and *crucial* role in shaping and forming their whole life.

Thanks to the generous "yes" of all of you who work in Catholic schools, serve as trustees and board members or volunteer in any capacity, students across Canada were able to daily walk through the doors of a Catholic School this year to learn about the world through the lens of faith and be educated and formed in body, mind and spirit.

Your "yes" to Catholic Education changed lives this year. Thank you!

As we continue to work together to secure the future of Catholic Schools in Canada, let's remember how much each year counts. Each year is another profound opportunity to renew our passion for Catholic Education and the irreplaceable impact it's making on our country.

Congratulations to our 2023 Higgins Award Winner: *Albert Provost*

Albert Provost has dedicated his entire life to supporting and promoting Catholic education in Canada. Though recently retired, his outstanding contributions to Catholic education in Canada will continue to bear fruit for many years to come. For his achievements, he has been named the 2023 Higgins Award winner.



President's Message



PATRICK DALY
CCSTA President



“Mission and Catholic Identity are not merely one domain among others. It serves as the foundation of all areas and is what makes other areas unique and our Catholic schools unique.”

“Commitment to mission and Catholic Identity amplifies and elevates every aspect of a Catholic school as grace elevates nature. It is the soul of Catholic education.”

I begin with these words in deep gratitude for our shared commitment to protect, celebrate and publicly claim the Catholic identity of Catholic schools across Canada. In the provincial reports contained in this newsletter, you will see numerous examples of the ways in which Catholic school districts, boards and individual schools contribute to the good of students, our church and the fabric of our society. Earlier this year, the Board of Directors held an extremely successful Lobby Day in Ottawa. During a number of meetings, we had the opportunity to share with members of Parliament the good of Catholic education and the important service Catholic School Trustees provide.

While not diminishing real and complex challenges, perhaps more than ever Catholic schools are cause for hope. The theme of this year’s 2023 AGM spoke not only to the identity of Catholic schools as “being rooted in our Catholic faith”, but as well to our responsibility as those entrusted with governance to “place Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church at the centre” of students learning experiences.

It was a tremendous blessing that the Annual General Meeting took place in-person. I would like to express deep gratitude to those whose vision and tireless work made this special gathering possible;

Chair Diane Boyko and the Trustees, staff and students of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic District School Board for their willingness to host and for their vision/efforts planning a most enjoyable gathering;

The CCSTA Board of Directors for your valuable input into the selection of the theme and development of the conference program; and most especially

Executive Director, Julian Hanlon and Executive Assistant, Michelle Collett, for their tireless work guiding and supporting all stages of the planning process.



President's Message (continued)

During a recent meeting with Italian Seminarians, Formators and Bishops, His Holiness Pope Francis stated:

"Let us remember that attachment to our history and to the significant places of our tradition must not prevent the novelty of the spirit from tracing paths to follow, especially when the path of the Church requires it. We need open eyes and an attentive heart to grasp the signs of the times and look ahead."

I believe similar words/counsel are relevant to those entrusted to leadership in Catholic schools and Catholic school boards across Canada. In light of a number of complex challenges (and I would add opportunities) I am convinced that those associated with Catholic education require, *"open eyes and attentive hearts to grasp the signs of the times and look ahead."* Our 2023 AGM's theme referencing "Catholic Education In Action" speaks to the current reality that Catholic schools are in fact an increasingly valuable and essential "Engine of Evangelization" of our Church.

It has been a tremendous honour and great joy for me to serve as President of the Canadian Catholic Schools Trustees' Association. The opportunity to witness the commitment, goodness and faith filled leadership of Catholic Trustees across Canada has been truly inspiring. I would like to recognize and express my appreciation to those who I have been blessed to journey with and learn from;

The members of the CCSTA Board of Directors for their dedicated service and valuable contribution to the work of our Association.

Father Stefano, CCSTA Chaplain, for his tremendous Christian witness and counsel.

Executive Director, Julian Hanlon, Executive Assistants, Jean Montminy and Michelle Collett and Communication Consultant, Catherine Burnham, and Simone Rose-Oliver, for their assistance, support and many kindnesses. Most especially I thank them for their outstanding service and clear commitment to the good of Catholic education.

In a special way, I would like to thank and recognize Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board Executive Assistant, Lorena Madalena. Her strong work ethic, outstanding work and goodness have been of invaluable assistance to me in my local, provincial and national service to Catholic education.

Most especially, I would like to thank my wife and best friend Carol and our four children, Michael, Kyle, Colleen and Monica and daughter-in-law Robyn for their love and endless support. Their many sacrifices and constant encouragement has been a tremendous source of hope and inspiration to me.

I would like to congratulate President Elect, Teresita Chiarella and Vice-President, Harry Salm, and wish them all of God's blessings as they assume the responsibilities entrusted to them.

Thank you for your presence and thank you for your service as advocates, stewards and political/servant leaders of Catholic education. I pray that our Lord Jesus Christ showers each of you and Catholic education with all of His blessings.

"He or she who seeks the office of Catholic Trustee is seeking an honourable position."





From the Office Desk

JULIAN HANLON

CCSTA Executive Director

As the school year draws to a close I think we can all agree that things are slowly returning to normal. That said, the last few years have had an impact on all facets of life including our schools and school boards. While we're still adapting to many of these changes, it's safe to say that our Catholic Schools are still primarily focused on ensuring that all students receive a faith-based education. Congratulations to all involved - keep up the great work.

We just recently enjoyed our first in-person AGM in three years. The Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Committee worked hard to put on an excellent AGM and Convention. We heard from a number of first-rate keynote speakers including Mike Patin, Chief Cadmus Delorme, Archbishop Donald Bolen and Dr. Gertrude Rompré. In addition, there were a number of engaging workshops for the delegates to choose from. All in all, we had a wonderful few days together.

We continue to make communications a priority and I think you'll agree that the many changes and improvements we've made over the last year are impressive. These include the expansion of our presence on social media with our Facebook and Instagram accounts, increasing our email newsletters to members and friends of Catholic Education and posting regular articles on our website to support those working in Catholic Schools.

Another key priority for CCSTA is our Toonies for Tuition Campaign. All monies raised towards this initiative go directly to support students and families that want to attend Catholic schools but have to pay tuition. These are students from British Columbia and Manitoba where school districts receive partial government funding and students on the east coast where the schools receive no funding at all. Many of these families make substantial financial sacrifices to keep their sons and daughters in Catholic schools. Like many charities, the past few years have been a challenge in terms of fundraising. We are optimistic things will improve. Any support is greatly appreciated.

I'd also like to thank the Ottawa Catholic School Board for their continued support of CCSTA.

In closing, I wish everyone some well-deserved rest this summer.

God bless,

JULIAN HANLON



Chaplain's Corner



Father Stefano Penna
CCSTA Chaplain

The Strange Retirement of Blessed Marie-Anne Blondin, Hero of Canadian Education

The end of the school year will mark the retirement of many members of our school communities. Let us celebrate them well - they will not know the effect that they have had until, on the great day of Resurrection, they will stand before the Face of God and see the marvel of what the Holy Spirit has done through them. May St. John Henry Cardinal Newman's words echo in our retiree's thoughts as we rejoice with them:

God has created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to me, which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good. I shall do His work. I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away.

Sadly, people are not always properly honoured as they complete a teaching career. Often large institutions can make retirees feel that they have just been set aside with an efficient word: "next". I wish I could say this never happens in Catholic institutions... but ...

Esther Blondin was born to simple farmers - Jean-Baptiste and Marie-Rose - in south-west Québec in 1809. She worked hard to support the large family - becoming a domestic servant. In her early twenties, the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame hired her to work in the convent attached to the parochial school. Esther faced a challenge: she was illiterate. The Sisters took care of that - and Esther learned to read and write. Though she had to leave the Novitiate because of health reasons (it is remarkable how many Canadian saints lived with perilous health), she nonetheless began to work in the parochial school - eventually becoming principal of the school that people named after her: The Académie Blondin! Quite a step from being illiterate. This was only the key, however, that unlocked greatness in this woman of faith.

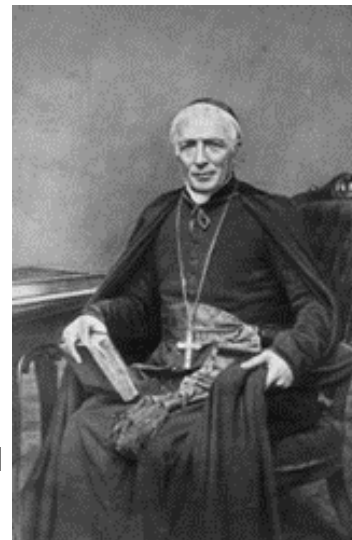


She asked a simple question: why had she been illiterate? The answer lay in the structure of the Catholic schooling that was permitted Québec in these days of English subjugation. Simply, the Church did not allow children to be taught by teachers of the opposite sex, and running two schools (one for boys and one for girls) was beyond most parish priests. She went to the Bishop of Montréal, Ignace Bourget, with a radical idea: to found a religious congregation "for the education of poor country children, both boys and girls, in the same schools." Bourget gave his blessing and the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Anne was founded on the Feast of the Birth of the Virgin Mary, 1850, and Blondin, now Mother Marie-Anne, was named Superior.

The Congregation grew rapidly. And then the troubles began. The priest Bourget assigned as chaplain, Abbé Maréchal, was simply a controlling dictator.

Chaplain's Corner (continued)

He had no time for a strong woman's challenge and within eight years had not only ousted Marie-Anne as Superior but had her removed from the list of Sisters and limited to doing domestic chores in obscurity at the Mother House. Sadly, there were several Sisters who collaborated with Maréchal to gain power. The Foundress of the Order was left doing laundry for twenty-six years. Hardly a "happy retirement". But this is where the sanctity of Marie-Anne Blondin shines. She let go of bitterness and accepted all of this as the will of God. She even apologized to Abbé Marechal on her death-bed!



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"If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.", says Newman.



A saint is one who works for God and trusts that God is working through her. Here is the miracle of God's way of continuing to found Blondin's Congregation. Sr. Marie-Anne worked in the laundry. Every young woman who entered the community was put to work in the laundry. And so, every Sister met the foundress who was able to form them to live focused not on the politics of institutions and self-involved group dynamics but in service to the Lord by educating poor boys and girls. Only God knows what part these meetings of an old rejected Sister and these young novices are in the link in the chain of education that perhaps has led to the greatest discoveries and most stunning acts of goodness in the lives of people of Canada - maybe even my life and your life. Blessed Marie-Anne Blondin now knows, for she sees clearly the mysterious plan of God revealed in Christ Jesus flowing through her life.

Thirty years after her death, a new Chaplain began researching her life and discovered the truth of this woman whose life story had been seen as embarrassing and so ignored. But Marie-Anne did not live for human acclaim - she lived to love God ... and to educate children. She was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II on April 29, 2001.

Might I be so bold as to suggest that today's Québec - and perhaps much of Canada - sees the stories of Bl. Marie-Anne and the thousands and thousands of Sisters and priests who lived for educating children as being embarrassing or worse. There are simple and beautiful monuments to these educators in Quebec City. The names of these women and men are forgotten by the world. Their legacy is also easily impugned. But not by God. He knows the truth of the hearts of these flawed and yet striving people. He has forged a great chain of service. A chain that every Catholic educator in Canada is a link. There is no retirement into obscurity, there is only shining glory.

Well done, good and faithful servants of Catholic education. Your monument is a living one - the children you have educated. May you be one with them in praising God in eternal Glory with Blessed Marie-Anne Blondin and all the Canadian Saints.



2023 CCSTA Annual Convention Report Catholic Independent Schools Committee of BC

Greetings from the Catholic Independent Schools Committee of British Columbia.



The Catholic Independent Schools Committee of BC (CISCBC)



The Superintendents and a representative from each of the 5 Dioceses in BC meet twice a year to work together on areas of common interest and concern. In addition, the five Bishops attend the first meeting of the year, held in November. This year we continued to work on the development of our new CISCBC Strategic Plan. The goals are:

1. To foster an authentic, personal relationship with Jesus Christ in the Church to become an intentional missionary disciple.
2. To develop and implement a model that will ensure sustainable growth in our financial and human resources.
3. To listen to, equip, and support our community members as we walk together in dialogue towards truth, healing, and reconciliation.

Authority Structure

The Catholic Independent Schools of BC (CISBC) are under the direct authority of the five dioceses in which they are located. Each diocese has a Board of Directors (like a public school district's School Board) except that all the trustees are "volunteers" with the President of each Board the Archbishop/Bishop of that diocese. These Boards set policy and direction for the schools in their diocese, with many responsibilities being mandated to local School Councils/Education Committees. Schools are funded 50% of the per student operating grant of the local public schools except for students with special needs who are funded at the 100% level. There is no financial support provided by the government for capital expenditures and buildings. Additional revenues to operate the schools come from tuition, donations, fundraising and parish subsidies. To get the 50% operating funding, schools must spend less per student than the public schools in their local area; otherwise, they are reduced to the 35% level. The Toonies for Tuition donations make a big difference here in BC, they are greatly appreciated.

BC Ministry of Education

13.7% of students in BC attend Independent Schools (IS) and based on how IS are funded, we receive approximately 7.25% of the educational budget (up slightly from previous years). The provincial government provided a \$472,000 Mental Health Grant to IS again for the 2022-2023 school year. The good news was that IS received the equivalent per student (100%) funding compared with the public system per student. This year the CISCBC determined that we would use the grant monies allocated to the CISCBC to focus on 'Cultivating a Relationally Focused and Trauma Sensitive School'. Dr. Deborah MacNamara, on the faculty at the Neufeld Institute, Director of Kid's Best Bet Counselling Center, and author of the best-selling book Rest, Play, Grow led a day of professional learning for all 76 BC Catholic School principals last September. Monthly meetings (virtually) with Deborah are helping to operationalize these 'trauma informed practices'.

Federation of Independent Schools Association of BC (FISA)

With a united voice, FISA advocates for parental choice, recognition, and funding; supports Independent School Associations in their pursuit of excellence; strengthens educational practice; and contributes to the public good (<https://fisabc.ca>). The FISA Board has been evaluating its progress with its current strategic goals and met in May 2022 to begin to develop a new strategic plan for the next 3-5 years.



BRITISH COLUMBIA (continued)

The FISA Board meets monthly to address topics common to all IS in the province. The FISA Executive and Committee Reps continue to meet with various Ministry of Education departments on such topics as funding, online learning, leadership, mental health initiatives, professional learning, etc. The Catholic Independent Schools (CIS) group is one of the five associations within FISA. Three CIS members are elected as representatives to the FISA Board, and they ensure that the "Catholic" voice is heard at the FISA table. The recent successes of FISA include:

- Secured \$1.2M for COVID health and safety expenses for independent schools (IS) and continued to coordinate the provincial COVID IS Rapid Response Teams.
- Participated in the Ministry's Roundtable on Racism.
- Administered the District Authority Scholarships for IS, 435 students received \$1,250 scholarships (\$543,750 in total).
- Advocated for independent online schools to continue to operate as provincial service providers.
- Promoted the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) participation for grade 4 & 8 students to help educators gain a deeper understanding of their social and emotional health and well-being.
- Advocated for a change to the BC post-secondary institutions using Literacy 12 Assessment results in their application practice.
- Facilitated 3 online parent dialogue sessions with the Ministry of Education and Childcare (MECC).
- Facilitated several MECC and IS information sessions on the transition of child care to the Ministry of Education (MoE).
- Hosted 4 Compassionate Systems Leadership seminars with Dr. Shirley Giroux.
- Hosted a virtual seminar on "Educator Well-Being in Uncertain Times" for over 480 attendees.
- Advocated for IS participation in the school ventilation program/grant, obtained \$806,000 in grants.
- Initiated conversations on possible partnerships with the MECC and FNECS to pursue Truth and Reconciliation initiatives. The FISA Board approved the funding of a FISA Indigenous Education Liaison position
- Hosted the Multi-Faith Collaborative to dialogue on issues affecting faith-based schools.

Provided information sessions for IS transitioning to Competency Based IEPs on MyEd BC.

The 2022-2023 School Year Update:

School Year Theme

The creation of a new theme is a wonderful community building activity that strives to integrate all that we do throughout the school year ahead. We discerned our 2022-2023 theme with a group of Catholic Independent Schools of BC Principals and Superintendents.

The process used to determine our new theme started with the consideration of the one of the CISBC Strategic Plan goals - "to support our school communities as we walk together in dialogue towards truth, healing, and reconciliation". We also reflected on Pope Francis' April 1st address to the representatives of Indigenous Peoples in Canada, "Dear brothers and sisters, it is my hope that our meeting in these days will point out new paths to be pursued together, instil courage and strength, and lead to a greater commitment on the local level ... to continue taking steps towards the transparent search for truth, and to foster healing and reconciliation."

Following this facilitated process, "Seeking Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation" emerged as our theme. This year's theme has provided wonderful opportunities for integration throughout the curriculum and faith practices as well as unite the Catholic School communities across the province.

Catholic Schools and the Common Good

Catholic schools across the province make a difference in their communities. Some good news stories from this year include: students volunteering at their local food banks, missions and thrift stores; raising funds for women's shelters, children's hospitals, Make a Wish Foundation, SPCA; sending cards to the elderly in Senior Care homes; participating in the Archbishop/Bishop's Appeal, Terry Fox Run, Jump Rope for Heart, winter jacket drives, and Fill-a-Crib Pregnancy Outreach; donating blankets, toques, mitts and socks to the homeless; collecting food for Christmas hampers; dedicating one school fundraiser each year to engaging in community clean ups; and sharing virtual Christmas concerts with Senior and Long-term Care homes. The list could go on ... you get the point - our students make a difference in our communities.

That is for another year. Blessings to you all!

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Marshall, Associate Superintendent of Schools for the
Vancouver Archdiocese and CISBC Chairperson





June 2023 Status Report Alberta-Northwest Territories-Yukon



With Alberta holding an election at the end of May this year, ACSTA has been busy working on a number advocacy-related initiatives. As mentioned in our previous report, a Government Relations Plan for the year was approved by the Board of Directors in January which focused on engaging before, during, and after the event. Our plan contained specific objectives, which included obtaining statements of support from both parties for publicly-funded Catholic education, in addition to pursuing a funding-follows-the-student transportation funding model with the Ministry.



In March we held our first ACSTA MLA Reception, which served the primary purpose of securing statements of support from both the United Conservative as well as New Democrat parties. In attendance were 60 representatives from 15 Catholic school divisions, as well as 30 MLAs from both parties - including the Premier, Opposition Leader, Minister of Education and Education Critic. Feedback from attendees was positive, and we look forward to implementing this as an annually-occurring opportunity for engagement going forward.

At our February meeting Directors were provided with agenda templates and part-specific messaging to make use of during the pre-election period in meeting MLA-candidates. Additionally, a MLA Meeting Report form was shared that Directors were asked to submit following such engagements in order to maintain a centralizing record of such meetings and gauge the general level of support for our schools in the Legislature. In April our Executive Team received media training from a reputable communications firm and an emergent communications plan was developed specific to the election period.



We were pleased to see this year's provincial budget allocate additional funds for school transportation. Transportation funding has been a concern for all education systems in Alberta, but it is an issue that impacts our Catholic schools in a particular way, and we have highlighted this in our meetings with the Minister. The funding manual has also been changed to provide an option for families living outside our formed areas to direct transportation funding dollars to the school authority at which their child is registered, which we anticipate will improve transparency, fairness, and accessibility to Alberta's publicly-funded Catholic education system.

ACSTA is also engaging in a number of exciting internal advocacy initiatives. Last year the board tasked its Faith Formation Committee with planning a symposium for Winter 2024 that will focus on the topic of teacher formation. We are also in the process of commissioning the writing of a book on the history of Catholic education in Alberta that we hope will be published in the next 2-3 years, the intended purpose of which is to help educate our members, staff, families, clergy and beyond about the significant role our separate schools have played in the development of Albertan society. Finally, we are exploring the possibility of an academic conference on the subject of Catholic education in conjunction with St. Joseph's College at the University of Alberta.



Alberta-Northwest Territories (continued)

At our annual SPICE and Blueprints retreats this year in the Kananaskis Rocky Mountains we had around 160 and 170 attendees, respectively. Mike Patin was our speaker for this year. ACSTA would be more than happy in the future to include trustees, teachers and administrators from your provincial associations as well - we normally open for registration in early January.



The most significant development since our previous report to the Association, however, is the reunion of the Edmonton Catholic School Division with ACSTA. Obviously, this is of critical importance to the Catholic education system as a whole. We look forward to working together with ECSD in a renewed and strengthened capacity for the betterment of publicly-funded Catholic education in Alberta.

Finally, we have had a number of important personnel changes at ACSTA. We hired an Office Manager, and we are currently searching for a part-time Communications Coordinator. The leadership of our provincial partners in Catholic education is also changing over with the retirement of Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico as GrACE Director, the retirement of Michael Hauptman as ED of CCSSA, and Archbishop Richard Smith of Edmonton taking on the role of ACSTA Bishop Liaison while Bishop McGrattan attends to his duties with the CCCB.



Your in Christ,
Harry Salm, ACSTA President
CCSTA Director: Alberta-Northwest Territories-Yukon



SASKATCHEWAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION CCSTA AGM REPORT June 2023



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.

The SCSBA Board of Directors approved a new logo design for the Association. It has been posted to the website and was supplied to CCSTA. The design will gradually be used for all business and promotional materials.

The Minister of Education for the Government of Saskatchewan has again proclaimed Catholic Education Week this year for the week of May 14–21, 2023. Materials have been prepared by the Catholic Education Coordinators/Consultants Association of Saskatchewan (CECAS) for use in Saskatchewan. The theme is “We are Many, We are One”.

A social media campaign highlighting the work being done by Saskatchewan Catholic Divisions in Indigenous Education is being professionally developed. Our Indigenous Leadership Team is participating in its development. The final product is expected to be ready by Catholic Education Week.

Bishop Mark Hagemoen and Executive Director Tom Fortosky have joined the Interprovincial Catholic Education Partners (ICEP) as Saskatchewan representatives. SCSBA appreciates the opportunity to collaborate on Catholic issues on a national basis.

Advocacy:

The SCSBA, which is a Section of the larger Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA), will be negotiating a renewal of an agreement governing the relationship between the two parties. The new terms will be 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. The former members are some of our strongest advocates for Catholic Education.

In February 2023, the Executive Committee of the SCSBA met with the Minister of Education and the new Opposition Education Critic as part of our advocacy work. Items discussed included the new Online Learning Crown Corporation, Independent Schools, Property Taxes, Catholic Education Week, the new Provincial Education Plan and our Indigenous Leadership Team.

Catholic Divisions will be working with other members of the SSBA to advocate for better funding for the education sector after a particularly difficult provincial budget.



Saskatchewan (continued)

Catholic Congress Saskatchewan:

As previously reported, the possibility of a Congress of Catholics in Saskatchewan has been discussed and is supported by Catholic Divisions. The Bishops of Saskatchewan will be discussing the matter at their spring meeting. Given the amount of time that is needed to prepare for such an event, 2024 may be a bit ambitious.

Indigenous Leadership Team:

In our ongoing efforts to address 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 27, 2022 celebrating the work that was done. The group also prepared materials for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2022. They also have been helping with the social media campaign celebrating the work of Catholic Divisions in Indigenous Education.

2022 SCSBA AGM:

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 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 still serve as Past President and will also 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.

2023 SCSBA AGM:

For the first time since 2019, the SCSBA will be meeting for a full standalone conference and AGM in Lloydminster on October 20-22, 2023.

Sexuality Pastoral Documents:

The Education Committee and CECAS have been reviewing and providing input to draft pastoral documents provided by the Bishops of Saskatchewan. Professional development training is also being explored. We are grateful to the Bishops of Saskatchewan for inviting our participation in a matter of great importance to Catholic Schools.





Manitoba Report

to the Canadian Catholic Schools Trustees' Association Annual Conference:

Manitoba Catholic Schools Office

Archdiocese of Winnipeg, Archdiocese of Saint Boniface, Archeparchy of Winnipeg



June 2023

Enrolment

As of September 30th, 2022, Manitoba's Catholic Schools reported to Government an enrollment of 5426 students (K-12). This is an increase of 106 students or 2% from the previous year and we are optimistic that this growth pattern will continue in the future. As we only receive partial government funding, we have to be careful to balance operational costs and tuition rates so that Catholic education can be affordable to a wide range of families. We also have limited space to expand capacity as we do not receive capital funding from the province. We are currently looking at ways to assist schools in growing capacity to meet the needs of families who desire a Catholic education for their children.

Funding

Manitoba Catholic Schools are funded differently than Catholic schools in Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. Our schools are funded as independent schools. The original funding agreement for independent schools was negotiated with the Progressive Conservative Government of Gary Filmon, Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools, and Manitoba Catholic Schools. A condition of the funding agreement was that Manitoba Catholic Schools drop their legal challenge to full funding of a separate Catholic school system based on the Manitoba Act of 1870. The second funding agreement, also negotiated with the Filmon Government increased funding to 50% of the total cost of educating a public-school student. The support grant amount is based on a formula of actual costs in public divisions so there is a two-year time gap in funding amounts. In the 2023/24 school year, our provincial support grant will be \$6,473 per full time student which represents 50% of the cost of educating our students if they were in public divisions in 2021/22. We also receive a textbook grant of \$60 per student and full funding for Level II and III special needs students on a case-by-case basis. Prior to the funding agreements, Manitoba Catholic Schools did not receive support grants from the Government of Manitoba.

Government Relations

All Catholic schools in Manitoba belong to the Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools (MFIS) and represent approximately 40% of the independent school population in the province. MFIS represents funded, non-profit independent schools from a wide variety of Christian faiths, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, and secular communities. MFIS was started by the Catholic community to gain support from other faith communities in our long struggle to the restore government funding for Catholic education that was lost in 1890. Currently all independent schools can be funded under the Fair Funding Agreement and Catholic schools are not in a privileged situation in relation to other faith-based schools. MFIS continues to monitor the funding agreement with the province, and a concerted effort has been put in place to educate the members of the legislature (MLA's) about the important role that independent schools play in the educational system as well as the history of Manitoba Catholic Schools and the Fair Funding Agreements. In April we had 32 out of 57 MLA's including the Premier attend a reception MFIS hosted at the Legislature.



Legislation

The Government of Manitoba introduced legislation in March 2023, The Education Administration Amendment Act that redefines teacher misconduct, creates a teacher registry and outlines the structure, composition, and processes to investigate and adjudicate cases of misconduct and competency. It establishes an independent commissioner to investigate and respond to complaints in a transparent and open process. It is the first time that independent schoolteachers are being included in a formalized process.

Concerns are being raised by the Manitoba Teachers Society (MTS) which is the public sector teacher's union about the inclusion of competence in a professional misconduct framework as well as including causing a student "significant emotional harm" in the definition of professional misconduct. The new process allows anonymous complaints, no requirement to provide a teacher with a copy of the complaint, no clear time limit for complaints, the obligation on employers to report all discipline for professional misconduct. Teachers support the idea of a process to prevent child abuse or misconduct but feel the proposed model may go too far and leave them vulnerable to frivolous, vexatious, or trivial complaints. The legislation is currently at the hearing stage, and the Minister of Education has expressed an openness to hear recommendations for amendments.

Vision

The Manitoba Catholic Schools Board of Consultors was established in 2017 to assist the Archbishops in their role to support Catholic schools in the province. They make recommendations to the Archbishops in the following areas: vision, planning, policy development, public relations, and political advocacy. Manitoba does not have a central board and the MCS Superintendent and MCS Office report to the Archbishops.

The Board of Consultors worked with the stakeholders, school pastors, administrators, and board chairs to create an initial visioning document. A progress report was prepared for the stakeholders and was presented in the 2021/22 school year. The 2022/23 school year marked the start of a new three-year cycle and stakeholders were once again surveyed for their input into creating a new document. It included the following priorities: Indigenous Education and Reconciliation, Sexuality Education and Respectful Relationships, Permeation of the Catholic Faith Across the Curriculum, School Governance and Policy, Capital Management, and Promoting Catholic Schools to Catholic Families. The MCS office will now work with the Board of Consultors and the school communities to develop strategies and actions to address topics raised in the visioning process.

Robert Praznik
Superintendent



OCSTA 93rd AGM and Conference in Toronto

OCSTA was pleased to welcome more than 220 delegates and guests to the Association's 93rd Annual General Meeting and Conference, April 27 - 29 in Toronto.



The Durham Catholic District School Board served as this year's wonderful Conference co-host and set the context for this year's conference with the prayerful and thoughtful Opening Liturgy on April 27th. The opening procession featured Trustees carrying in backpacks filled with clothing and supplies for the homeless youth served by Covenant House in Toronto.



Speaking on the topic of the Conference theme "Journeying Together in Faith" was the Most Rev., Francis Leo, newly installed Archbishop of Toronto. OCSTA was pleased to welcome His Grace to this provincial gathering of Ontario's Catholic Trustees. Archbishop Leo's presentation was an inspiring examination of defining aspects of what it means to journey together in faith.

Representing the Ministry of Education at this year's conference was Deputy Minister of Education, Nancy Naylor. Throughout the years OCSTA has developed a very good working relationship with the Deputy Minister's office and staff. During her address the Minister reviewed newly announced draft legislation - Bill 98: Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023 (see comments on this legislation later in this report). After an outstanding career leading important portfolios in the Education and Health Ministries, Deputy Minister Naylor announced at the conference that she would be retiring in June. President Daly expressed OCSTA's appreciation for her service and her strong support for publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario.

Closing Session

Award winning writer and Professor of Indigenous Studies, Dr. Niigaan Sinclair delivered a powerful presentation at the closing of the conference that examined the lessons of the 2022 Papal Visit to Canada and matters for Catholic education leaders to consider for Reconciliation and the path forward.

To view the full OCSTA conference program, please click [here](#)

OCSTA 93rd AGM Regional Director Election Results

"I am pleased to acknowledge with gratitude all the candidates who put their name forward to serve the mission of Catholic education at the provincial level as an OCSTA Regional Director. The newly acclaimed and elected trustees accept the call to serve Catholic education and share a commitment to place Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church at the centre of students' learning experiences. We look forward to serving with them in the best interest of Catholic Education," said OCSTA President Patrick Daly.

OCSTA Regional Directors - Election Results:

Region 1: **Colleen Landers**, Northeastern CDSB (Acclaimed)

Region 2: **Paul Landry**, Kenora CDSB (Acclaimed)

Region 3 (At Large): **Glenn Sheculski**, Northeastern CDSB

Region 4: **Marino Gazzola**, Wellington CDSB (Acclaimed)

Region 5: **Linda Ward**, St. Clair CDSB (Acclaimed)

Region 9: **Morgan Ste. Marie**, Durham CDSB

Region 10: **Brian Evoy**, Algonquin & Lakeshore CDSB (Acclaimed)

Region 11: **Rick Petrella**, Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB (Acclaimed)

*CDSB - Catholic District School Board

To view the complete list of trustees on OCSTA's Board of Directors please visit:
<http://www.ocsta.on.ca/ocsta-board-of-directors>.

OCSTA Awards Program

The Association was pleased to acknowledge outstanding Catholic education leadership and service through the annual OCSTA Awards Program. This year's awards recognized the following individuals:

2023 OCSTA Trustee Award of Merit Recipients:

Former Trustee Fred Alexander, Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board ([view profile](#))

Trustee Jim McCafferty, Durham Catholic District School Board ([view profile](#))

Release of 2023 GSNs and Bill 98:

On April 17, the Minister of Education announced the 2023-24 Grants for Student Needs (GSNs) totaling \$27.1 billion, an increase of \$693 million or a 2.7% increase from last year.

At the same time as the release of the GSNs, the government introduced draft legislation Bill 98: *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023*.

This legislation addresses the following areas in education:

- Accountability and transparency
- Governance and leadership
- Maximizing capital assets
- Teacher training and education oversight, and
- Consistent approaches to student learning.

President Daly stated the following regarding this announcement:

"We are pleased to see included in the draft legislation acknowledgement of the need to respect denominational rights and the requirement to consult in important areas."

Following deeper examination of the legislation and consultation with OCSTA members, the Association will be developing a brief for submission during the Bill 98 hearings.

ONTARIO - OCSTA (continued)

Current Priorities:

OCSTA's current advocacy platform includes:

- Increased and multi-year funding in support of learning recovery and student faith-formation, mental health and well-being;
- Increased flexibility and autonomy for Catholic school boards
- Revoking the regulation freezing Executive Compensation
- Correcting default "public" mechanism in the province's property tax assessment system
- Updating the capital construction benchmarks and streamlining the approvals process
- Increase special education funding

Catholic Trustee Resources

OCSTA continues to develop and reinforce resources specifically for faith formation and professional development.



A new publication has been added to the OCSTA Together in Faith Series – this spring the Association will release *Fostering Mental Health and Well-Being Through Pastoral CARE*.

Other new resources include:

- The Catholic Trustee Handbook includes:
 - information on the distinctive role and responsibilities of Catholic School Trustees.
 - key government publications developed to clarify the governance role of school boards in Ontario
 -
- Trustee Modules
 - the professional development program developed by OCSTA and the Ontario Education Services Corporation - accessible via the OCSTA website: <https://www.ocsta.on.ca/trustee-modules-2/>
 - OCSTA has just completed an Equity and Inclusion Module for OCSTA members - will be released in May

Catholic Trustee PD events:

- Catholic Trustees Seminar (2-days) - January
- AGM & Conference (3-days) - April
- Catholic Education Week - Faith formation curriculum; activities/resources for schools and CDSB communities
- Fall Regional Meetings (1- day for each of the 5 regional Meetings) - September - early October
- Evening Speaker Series (virtual)
- Media Training Seminar for CDSB Chairs (1/2 day)

Catholic Identity

As part of the Association's ongoing focus on Catholic Identity, OCSTA continues to encourage conversations with regard to the Catholic Identity of publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario. At the beginning of this year, President Daly identified a list of "calls to action" for the realization of the Christ centred mission of our Catholic school system:

- Catholic schools leading in post COVID recovery
- Catholic schools leading in renewal/strengthening of the "home-school-parish" partnership
- Catholic School Trustees leading conversations with regard to Catholic Identity
- Catholic school boards leading the development of programs and allocation of resources in support of adult faith formation and Catholic leadership development.

ONTARIO - OCSTA (continued)

Catholic Education Week

OCSTA's Annual Catholic Education Week (CEW) province-wide promotion took place April 30 to May 5, 2023. In addition to the curriculum and liturgical packages that are prepared by the OCSTA CEW Committee for all Catholic schools, the Association also works with a provincial student trustee executive to host the Ontario Catholic Student Youth Day Event.

This event includes a day of presentations and workshops on the topic of youth faith formation and social justice issues ([view full program](#)).

OCSTA President Patrick Daly opened the day's event with provincial Catholic Student Trustee Leaders Stephanie De Castro (Toronto CDSB) and Katie Bowie (Halton CDSB). At the conclusion of the Seminar portion of the day, students across the province participated in the annual Catholic Education Week Provincial Mass which was celebrated by the Archbishop of Toronto, the Most Rev. Francis Leo and live streamed online to allow simultaneous participation of students in classes and communities across the province.

To view and download the CEW packages, special video, posters and prayer cards, please visit: www.goodnewsforall.ca.

OCSTA Year in Review



The OCSTA 2022-23 Year in Review report highlights the priority work of the Association over the past year. This report can be downloaded directly from the OCSTA website at the following URL:

<https://www.ocsta.on.ca/resources/the-year-in-review/>

**AACTIVITY REPORT FOR ONTARIO
ACCEC / CCSTA 2022-2023**



Annual Meeting and AGM – Toronto – May 2022

Annual Meeting – May 2022. Congratulations and thank you to all participants of the AFOCSC Annual Meeting, its 24th edition, which took place in Toronto, May 26-28, 2022.



Annual Meeting – May 2022. Congratulations and thank you to all participants of the AFOCSC Annual Meeting, its 24th edition, which took place in Toronto, May 26-28, 2022.

After welcoming our participants, the 2022 annual meeting could finally be officially launched and in a very beautiful way with the opening ceremony on Thursday evening. It was a warm moment of reunion and reconnection in person, after two successive years of virtual encounters.

Our participants had the chance to benefit from the expertise of four talented speakers who offered the workshop sessions: • “The development of the community Catholic school environment” (Valérie Morand, Executive Director of the FNCSF); • “Leadership Development Strategy at the School Board Level” (Benoit Hubert, President of PGF Consultants); • “Collaboration starts with you: The 5 virtues of an ideal colleague” (Alain Vachon, trainer and consultant for Discitus); • “Being Catholic today” (Jonathan Roy, teacher and pastoral animator at the É.S.C. L’Escale CSDCEO).

The student trustees were also treated to their own workshop and to end this exceptional day in style, a new surprise awaited our participants at the premises of Groupe Media TFO, where we were received for a happy hour, during which we had the pleasure of visiting the channel’s interactive production studios.



Our four speakers in action.

From left to right: Valérie Morand, Benoit Hubert, second row: Jonathan Roy and Alain Vachon.



ONTARIO - AFOCSC (Continued)

Workshop for student trustees; an activity in two parts, the first "Community Leadership" was presented to them by the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Francophone Affairs, Ms. Natalia Kusendova (via zoom) and the second entitled "How to live your Francophonie today and in the future" was moderated by Mr. Peter Hominuk, Executive Director of the Assemblée de la Francophonie de l'Ontario (AFO).

The student trustees during their activity with the Executive Director of AFO, Mr. Peter Hominuk.



Mr. André Bidal, recipient of the 2022 Award for Excellence in Catholic Education

Excellence in Catholic Education Award 2022

Mr. André Bidal left us last March, just after receiving the 2022 AFOCSC Catholic Education Excellence Award. Usually awarded during the annual banquet, the gala evening was therefore the solemn moment to a last tribute to our deceased illustrious laureate. Thus, led by Johanne Lacombe, Melinda Chartrand, Suzanne Salituri, Isabelle Charbonneau and Langis Dion, the entire assembly paid a touching tribute to Mr. André Bidal, who distinguished himself during his lifetime, by his enormous involvement in favor of the French-language Catholic education in Ontario and all his work as a school trustee with the Nouvelon Catholic School Board. Mr. André Bidal will forever remain etched in our hearts and in the history of the Association franc-ontarienne des conseil scolaire catholiques!

AFOCSC Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections

The AGM is of course also an opportunity for the AFOCSC to elect among the members of the Board, who will be the president and, the vice-president, for the next year. Thus, as part of this 24th Annual General Meeting, Mrs. Johanne Lacombe, President of the Council of Catholic Schools of the Center-East (CECCE) was reappointed at the head of the AFOCSC as President of its Board of Directors for a new term. As vice-president, it was now up to Mr. Langis Dion, president of the Grandes Rivières Catholic District School Board (CSCDGR), to support Ms. Johanne Lacombe at the head of the association. Mr. Langis Dion was seeking his first term in this position and succeeds Mrs. Melinda Chartrand.



ONTARIO - AFOCSC (Continued)

And for this new year 2022 - 2023, the AFOCSC is pleased to introduce you to the members who will constitute its Board of Directors: Ms. Johanne Lacombe, President of the AFOCSC and President of the CECCE and the CCJL; Mr. Langis Dion, Vice-President of the AFOCSC and President of the CSCD Grandes Rivières; (Note that following the municipal and school elections in October 2022, Mr. Robert Demers of CSC Providence became the active vice-president of the AFOCSC), Mrs. Melinda Chartrand of CSC MonAvenir; Mr. Jean Lemay of the CSDC Est-Ontarien; Mr. Robert Demers of CSC Providence; Ms. Suzanne Salituri of CSC Nouvelon; Mr. Ronald Demers of CSC Franco-Nord; Ms. Sylvie Payeur of the CSDC Aurores Boréales (note that Ms. Claudette Gleeson now fills the role of President), finally Monsignor Marcel Damphousse, Bishop Respondent of the AFOCSC and Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall.



The members of the Board of Directors of the AFOCSC during the rite of commitment. From left to right: Sylvie Payeur, Jean Lemay, Suzanne Salituri, Robert Demers, Melinda Chartrand, Langis Dion (new vice-president), Johanne Lacombe (president) and Mgr Damphousse.

School boards and AFOCSC are celebrating 25 years of academic excellence!

In 2023, French-language school boards in Ontario mark 25 years of existence since their official creation in 1998, granting Franco-Ontarians the right to full management of their Catholic and public school boards as well as equitable funding. Our eight French-language Catholic school boards will be celebrating this historic milestone throughout the year. As part of this special year, the AFOCSC is particularly focused on training activities for its members, offering them monthly virtual trainings, reinforcing the specific role and responsibilities of the Catholic School Trustee. We are also using the anniversary, which coincides with the return of in-person activities since the pandemic, to increase our political advocating efforts.

Visit the website at <https://afocsc.org/evenements/25e-anniversaire-de-lafofsc/> to stay informed of the activities surrounding the celebrations.

Back to School 2022 - 2023: Back to In-Person Learning

The 2022 - 2023 back-to-school took place in person on September 5 in all schools across Ontario. The greatly improved health situation has allowed students to gradually regain a stable learning experience in the classroom, as well as their regular pre-pandemic activities.

Municipal and school elections in October

For the last elections, 82 positions of Catholic school trustees were to be filled. Of this number, 58 mandates or 71% of the positions have been acclaimed and these experienced people are returning as administrators in our eight French-language Catholic school boards. 24 new trustees joined as new trustees across Ontario. Congratulations and good luck in your work.

Training sessions have been put in place by the AFOCSC to facilitate understanding and the importance of the role of school board trustees and to recruit members of diversity and young parents wishing to become actively involved in the management of school boards. We can report some successes on this side, but there will be more work to do on school board table succession plans for the upcoming 2026 elections.

Changes to the AFOCSC Board of Directors

After the municipal elections of October 24, 2022, our CA table has undergone some changes. We regret the departure of Mr. Langis Dion, but we welcome two new members as well as a new vice-president. We are pleased to announce that Ms. Johanne Lacombe, President of the Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est (CECCE) has been re-elected as President of the AFOCSC Board.

Mr. Robert Demers succeeds Mr. Dion as Vice-President of the AFOCSC. Mr. Demers has worked in the field of education for over 40 years. A school trustee for 12 years, he represents the Chatham-Kent region within the Conseil scolaire catholique Providence. Roger Grégoire, President of the Grandes Rivières Catholic District School Board, therefore joins the AFOCSC board table. He has been a school counselor at the CSCDGR since 2006.

In addition, Ms. Claudette Gleeson returns to the AFOCSC table this year. President of the Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boréales, she has been a school trustee for 24 years and represents the Thunder Bay region.

The table of the board of directors is pleased to welcome the new members of its board.

Appointments to the Board of Directors of the Center-Jules Léger Consortium.

The Consortium Center Jules-Léger (CCJL) is a provincial non-profit organization that offers a variety of special education services to students with severe learning disabilities or who are deaf or hard of hearing, who are blind or low vision or who are deaf and blind.

The CCJL is deemed to be a school board in its own right. It provides services to French language school boards, schools, teachers, special educators and students across Ontario. The Board of Directors is made up of 6 directors chosen from the members of the associations (ACÉPO and AFOCSC).

Each association must propose three members. In November, the AFOCSC selected the following three school trustees as administrators for the Conseil du Consortium Center Jules-Léger. They are, Ms. Johanne Lacombe, CEC Centre-Est, Ms. Melinda Chartrand, CSC MonAvenir and Ms. Suzanne Salituri, CSC Nouvelon, appointed for a four-year term. The other three members who were elected come from French-language public school boards.

Trustees Professional Development Programs:

As indicated before, the AFOCSC has placed a significant emphasis on the training of its members at the start of their new mandate and as part of the 25th anniversary of its school boards and the Association. Here is an overview of the programs offered:

January Reissue and review of the revised 2022-2026 governance guide for school board trustees.

February Launch of the professional development program for members. 21 online modules on various important topics affecting the governance of our boards. It is remarkable to note that 76% of trustees completed their certification before March 31, 2023. Bravo for your interest and involvement!

March My advocating kit, a dynamic training on the tools and tactics available to better achieve the objectives in French-language Catholic Francophone education in Ontario.

April Catholic Education 25 years and now? A reflection on our accomplishments in preparation for the activities of the annual meeting in May 2023.

May A keynote speaker and three workshops will be offered to our participants to launch into the future and the next 25 years.

For your information and interest, we invite you to visit the training tab of our website: <https://afocsc.org/ressources/formations/> to have access to the material shared with our members and the training videos on our YouTube channel.



AFOCSC Priority - Solving the Shortage of Teachers

The report tabled more than two years ago confirmed a serious shortage of French-language teaching staff. This shortage curve is only increasing year after year. The implementation committee now headed by the Ministry of Education held very few working meetings during the period. Progress is slow.

The working table brings together representatives of the Ontario College Teachers, universities, unions, associations of school trustees 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, setting up of a campaign to better promote the profession and a few other avenues. Despite positive results, the impact on recruitment remains minimal.

Advocating Activities:

In planning its advocating activities, the AFOCSC has chosen to focus primarily on a major and most urgent issue, that of the shortage of French-language teachers in Ontario. In December 2022, AFOCSC was able to meet with some MPPs at Queen's Park. The goal is to familiarize elected officials with the activities of the AFOCSC, make them aware of our priorities, particularly with regard to the shortage of Francophone teachers in Ontario and how to advance the recommendations set out in the report of the committee on the shortage of teachers.

We are considering other advocating sessions in the winter. To give us the greatest flexibility, some meetings will take place in person while others will take place by videoconference. They will once again focus on the crisis of the teaching staff shortage.

In March 2023, school trustees had the chance to participate in a training session dedicated entirely to political advocating, during which a advocating kit was prepared for them. We hope that this very practical training will give them all the tools they need to meet and maintain a dialogue with their local MPP and other representatives of other levels of government.



From left to right: Yves Lévesque, Melinda Chartrand, Hon. Stephen Lecce and Suzanne Salituri

AFOCSC Congress - Month of May 2023 in Toronto:

The big celebration of the AFOCSC will take place during our annual convention on May 25, 26 and 27, 2023. Nearly a hundred Catholic school trustees, student trustees and directors of Education will meet at Toronto around the theme "To many, we are one".

This will be an opportunity not only to celebrate the achievements of the past 25 years, but also to reflect on our future as a French-language Catholic education system in Ontario.

The opening night will take place at Université de l'Ontario Français (UOF). The majority of our school trustees will visit the facilities of this new francophone university, in the heart of the city of Toronto, for the first time. A partner of choice for the future of our students and the training of new teachers.

All the activities planned during the congress will help us to reflect on the Catholic school of today and to project ourselves towards the future. We will leave this event renewed and ready to continue our work in our communities!

Melinda Chartrand

Membre du CA de l'AFOCSC
Représentante à ACCEC/CCSTA

Yves Lévesque

Directeur général
AFOCSC

Éducation
catholique : 
À plusieurs
nous sommes un



Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques is the voice of Ontario's eight French-language Catholic school boards and the Consortium Center Jules-Léger serving more than 76,000 Franco-Ontarian students across the province. Our school boards employ more than 11,000 support and teaching staff who work diligently in nearly 300 schools to provide the best French-language Catholic education possible.



RCISA-AR Spring Report 2023

The 2023 school year in Atlantic Canada, started off strongly and is promising to finish much the same! The cold winter months were filled with activity, both indoors and out, as students focused on their studies, fitness and faith. There were winter carnivals, sports tournaments, Science fairs, and spiritual retreats. Lent was an opportunity for quiet reflection, sacrifice and prayer, with a special emphasis on Holy Week. Earth Day was also important for schools, as students learned about upcycling, making bird feeders, and cleaning up their outside environment. Musicals were also performed, and awards won at local music festivals. There was also a special focus on mental health for youth, with inservice programs for teachers held in some schools.

Fundraising efforts have remained strong as parents, staff and students, worked together for Gala and Tribute Dinners, Bursary Benefits, 50/50 raffles, and online auctions. Families and people in the community alike, showing what Catholic education and formation mean to them, as they help to financially support the schools in their region.

We are again, 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, and keep all our benefactors in our daily prayers!

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!

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

2023 -2024 Directors:

British Columbia: **Leslie Roque**
Alberta/NWT/Yukon: **Gerald Bernakevtich**
Saskatchewan: **Jerome Niezgoda**
Manitoba: **Giuseppi Caligiuri**
Ontario French: **Melinda Chartrand**
Ontario English: **Bev Eckensweiler**
Ontario English: **Mark Mullan**
Atlantic Region: **Myriam Dobbelsteyn**

