

THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the President

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am both pleased and honoured to present the Annual Report for 2005-2006, the Council's 25th year.

The Council continues to be active in implementing its Strategic Plan, embracing and championing those causes which relate to the poor, the marginalized, the elderly, as well as to education and linguistic rights in health and social services. The ESCC continues to engage in advocacy, providing a critical response on issues which affect our community and society in general, sharing values and concerns by promoting social justice and dialogue in solidarity with others.

2006 is our 25th Anniversary year and to mark the occasion, the Board of Directors is organizing a special event to take place at the Loyola High School's new Centre for Performing Arts (2744 West Broadway, Montreal) on Thursday evening, October 5, 2006. George Weigel, a Roman Catholic theologian and prominent Catholic layman from Washington, author of Pope John Paul's definitive biography, NBC and CNN commentator and probably the best known Catholic public commentator in North America, has accepted our invitation to speak at this community celebration, on ways we can ignite, sustain and nurture an informed and partnered laity.

Due to the announced sale of the Catholic Centre building, it has become a preoccupation of the ESCC to ensure that the family of Catholic organizations stays together as a strong and vibrant entity to continue serving the Quebec Catholic community.

Once again, the Council would like to express its gratitude to the Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation, the Pillars' Trust Fund, the Father Dowd Foundation and the Department of Canadian Heritage, without whose continuous financial assistance the Council would not exist. We would also like to thank the Catholic Times for its excellent coverage and unfailing support, I would be amiss not to mention the contribution of my outstanding colleagues around the boardroom table. The Catholic Council is fortunate to have such a group of qualified volunteers.

In closing, I would like to thank our Executive Director, Martin Murphy, my right arm, the one who wields the pen, and our Executive Secretary, Suzanne Brown, for their continued excellence and dedication.

Sincerely,

Colin J. Coole
President

ESCC COMMITTEES 2005 - 2006

Executive

COLIN COOLE
President

BRIAN O'NEILL
Vice-President

ROBERT VAUPSHAS
Treasurer

LYNN LONERGAN DOYLE
Secretary

WARREN ALLMAND
Past-President

Education

- Monitors policy & legislation;
- Facilitates communication among leaders;
- Develops and articulates unified positions;

Social Issues

- Monitors legislation in the areas of poverty, income security, housing and family policy;
- Prepares position papers consonant with Catholic values.

Communications

- Parishes, Media, AGM, Rally, Annual Report, E-Mail, and Web Page;
- Develops liaison with community leadership and its resources.

Health & Social Services

- Ensures that English-speaking Montrealers have access to services (especially the elderly, the vulnerable & those who have special needs);
- Seeks to promote working relationships with parishes and local healthcare institutions.
- Ensures that Catholic values are promoted and that institutions identified with the English-speaking Catholic community continue to be identified as such.

Rally

- Organizes Rally to affirm the dynamic and positive aspects of our community.

Finance

- Reviews monthly financial statements;
- Prepares budget proposals;
- Monitors investments.

Advisory

- Provides continuity and enhances the strength of the Council;
- Recommends names of candidates for election to the board;
- Offers advice on issues affecting the community.

Chairperson: Patrick Rourke

Membership: Colin Coole, Gail Campbell-Tucker, Eamon Dillon, David Dussault, Margaret Lefebvre, Don Myles, Neil McKenty, Daniel O'Brien, Claire Robinson, Harold Thuringer, John Walker, Fr. John Walsh, Robert Wilkins.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Education

- In October 2005, the ESCC wrote to the Minister of Education, reminding him that the Council made a major act of good faith when in May 1988 at the National Assembly Commission Hearings studying Bill 107, it defended its position in favour of the reorganization of school boards along linguistic lines on condition that confessional guarantees would be provided within the framework of the new structures. The Government of Quebec at the time assured parents that the free choice between Catholic or Protestant Moral and Religious instruction or moral instruction Education would be maintained in accordance with Section 41 of the Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

In the Spring of 2005, the English Speaking Catholic Council recommended to the Minister of Education, Jean-Marc Fournier, that the notwithstanding clauses be renewed for a period of five years to ensure that parents will continue to have the choice of Catholic or Protestant religious education for their children in elementary and secondary schools in Quebec, honoring the commitment made by the Government of Quebec in 1997 when the resolution to amend Section 93 of the Constitution Act of 1867 was adopted.

In June 2005, Bill 95, an Act to amend various legislative provisions of a confessional nature in the education field was adopted by the National Assembly. The notwithstanding clauses, Articles 721 and 727 in the Education Act were renewed for a period of three years and will cease to have effect on July 1, 2008. At that time, a new program of studies in ethics and religious culture established by the Minister, will be offered to all students in elementary and secondary public and private schools.

The English Speaking Catholic Council is profoundly disappointed by this turn of events but will continue to urge the Government to reverse its decision denying parental choice and honor its commitments out of respect for our religious and cultural heritage.

- The Office for English Pastoral Services under the leadership of Msgr. Sean Harty, its Director, and Deacon Robert Zankoski, Coordinator, offers a professional formation program in Pastoral Home Care Services. Its Mission Statement reads: “As members of a Christian community, we strive to become a compassionate presence to the sick and the elderly.” At this time, home care teams have been organized in 12 parishes. 150 people have completed their formation enabling them to reach out to the lonely, elderly, sick and shut-ins. The ESCC encourages personnel in the community to give consideration to this special vocation.
- The Department of Theological Studies (Loyola Campus) at Concordia University offers a Certificate in Pastoral Ministries. It is designed to provide a university level

professional preparation enabling one to serve in a variety of pastoral activities. The core courses present the theological foundations that inform the two areas of concentration: Faith Development and Catechesis and Parish Life and Community Ministry. The ESCC encourages potential candidates who may have an interest to consider enrolling in this program. Our community needs you.

Health & Social Services

- In February 2006, ESCC representatives attended the Sixth Conference on Accessibility to Health and Social Services in the English Language in Montreal. The following is an excerpt from a presentation made by the Agence de développement de réseaux locaux de services de santé et de services sociaux, Montreal-Centre.

LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

Objectives of the health and social services network

The law establishes an organizational structure designed to:

- ensure the participation of individuals and groups of individuals in the selection of orientations and in the setting up, improvement, development and management of services;
- ensure that services are accessible on a continuous basis to respond to the physical, mental and social needs of individuals, families and groups;
- take account of the distinctive geographical, linguistic, sociocultural, ethnocultural and socioeconomic characteristics of each region;
- foster, to the extent allowed by the resources, access to health services and social services in their own language for members of the various cultural communities of Quebec.

Rights of English speaking people

English-language service:

- English-speaking persons are entitled to receive health services and social services in the English language,
 - in keeping with the organizational structure and the human, material and financial resources of the institutions providing such services and
 - to the extent provided by an access program.

Committee on the Dispensing of Services in the English Language

- The Government shall, by regulation, provide for the formation of a provincial Committee entrusted with advising it on:

- the dispensing of health and social services in the English language;
 - the approval, evaluation and modification by the Government of each access program developed by a regional agency.
- Composition:
 - The regulation must provide for the composition of the committee, its rules of operation and internal management, the manner in which its affairs are to be conducted and its functions, duties and powers.

Responsibilities regarding access programs

The Provincial Committee on the dispensing of health and social services in the English language will:

- Undertake whatever consultations it deems appropriate in drawing up its opinion;
- Give its opinion to the Government regarding the approval, evaluation and modification of each access program developed by a regional agency by addressing its opinion to the Minister of health and social services.

Access programmes to English language services

Definition

- An access programme is a government decree that indicates the manner, the service and the institution for whom there is an obligation to make health or social services available in English to the English speaking population

Goal

- The aim of an access programme is to assure access to a range of English language health and social services for English-speaking persons, either in their neighbourhood, their region or if need be in another region.

Responsibilities of health and social services agencies

- Proposing an access programme to English language health and social services:
 - For the English speaking population of their region.
- Produced in collaboration with:
 - representatives of the English speaking communities of their region and
 - Institutions of their region.

Regional Access Committees

- Regional Committees:
 - The government provides for (by regulation) the formation of regional committees entrusted with:
 - Advising agencies' boards on the access programs developed by that agency;
 - Evaluating those access programs and suggesting modifications to them where necessary.
- Composition:
 - The agencies determine the composition of their regional committees, their rules of operation and internal management, the manner in which their affairs are to be conducted and their functions, duties and powers.

Sequence of events:

- The agencies initiate the revision of the access programmes of their respective regions with the help of the Frame of reference.
 - The agencies make an inventory of the services that are available in English at the local regional and inter-regional levels.
 - The inventory of accessible English language services is completed by referring to existent access programmes and clinical and organizational projects defined by the CSSS.
 - The agencies produce their access programmes on the advice of their regional committees and by resolution of their Board of directors.
 - The agencies submit their access programme proposals to the Minister for government approval.
- The Minister receives the access programme proposals accompanied by the requested information.
 - The Provincial Committee on the dispensing of health and social services receives copies of the access programme proposals.
 - It consults, as is deemed necessary, the regional bodies concerned by the programme;
 - It addresses its opinion on each proposal to the Minister to be tabled with government.
 - Based on the evaluation criteria, the Ministry analyses the programme proposals of each agency and submits its appreciation to the Minister while taking into account the opinion of the Provincial Committee.
 - The Minister tables a brief on the access programme proposals of each agency with the cabinet. The brief contains his recommendations and is accompanied by the Provincial Committee's opinion.
 - The government approves the access programme of each region.

- An agency can revise its region's access programme at any time but must do so at least every three years.

Multi-year strategic plans

- Agencies must, in collaboration with the institutions and community organizations of their regions, develop and implement multi-year strategic plans.
- These plans must conform to the orientations and policies that have been determined by the Minister.
 - These plans identify the services required to meet the needs of the population taking into account:
 - The health and social service resources, including those of community organizations;
 - The mission of the centres run by the institutions;
 - The socio-cultural and linguistic characteristics of the population, and as needed, those institutions that are identified in an access programme.

Challenges:

- Harmonize the responsibility of the agencies with regards to the revision of access programmes to English language health and social services with:
 - Their responsibilities towards the elaboration of multi-year strategic plans and;
 - Those of the Health and social services centres with regards to the defining of clinical and organizational projects.
- Capture and harmonize the dynamism of the organizational context which is in constant evolution with:
 - The more static approach taken by the access programmes which is essentially to take a snapshot of the state of the delivery of English language services in a specific region at a given point in time.

The participation of people from the English-speaking communities of Quebec is a prerequisite to the delivery of English-language health and social services that meet their needs and expectations.

- In June 2005, the Minister of Health and Social Services, Philippe Couillard announced that effective July 1, 2005, seniors receiving the maximum guaranteed income supplement receive all of their prescribed medication free. The Coalition led by Project Genesis, in which the ESCC collaborated, was only partially successful in the campaign and is continuing its efforts to have this measure extended to those receiving the partial supplement.
- In Summer of 2005, Social Development Canada invited organizations to submit applications under the New Horizons for Seniors program for funding local projects

that encourage seniors to contribute their skills, experience and wisdom and promote their involvement in community life. The ESCC encouraged CCS to have the Good Shepherd Community Centre, the Teapot 50 Plus Centre and Almage Senior Community Centre apply. The Good Shepherd serves the diverse population in Montreal-Centre, has a concentration of programs geared to seniors in Point-St-Charles, Little Burgundy, Verdun, St-Henri and LaSalle, many of whom live in impoverished conditions. Its application “Let’s mobilize our Seniors” was approved.

- The Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN), of which the ESCC has a member on its Board of Directors, has initiated and partnered a number of projects to further accessibility to English-language healthcare services in Quebec and to empower anglophone communities across the province to play a significant role in the development of those services. These include:
 - Partnering the QCGN Networking and Partnership Initiative (HSSNPI): a five-year, \$4.3 million program that assists anglophone groups to work with local community partners to improve delivery of health care in English. This measure is administered by the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), one such initiative entitled “Cultivating Roots” is intended to increase access to health and social services in English in the East End of Montreal. It is being administered by CCS. The objective of the project is to generate, integrate and share information and knowledge by:
 - Establishing the network;
 - Completing and sharing a best practices community needs assessment;
 - Developing a website and e-mail list and;
 - Building and maintaining links to those who present information to policy makers by being an active member of the provincial network.
 - The Primary Healthcare program: a \$10 million, two-year project that provides funds for public healthcare institutions to improve delivery of their services in English.
 - Partnering a language training and human resources development project, administered by McGill: a five-year, \$11.5 million program of second-language training and continuing education for francophone and anglophone healthcare professionals in the regions.
 - The Community Information and Resources program through which CHSSN provides the socio-demographic data necessary for anglophone communities to identify the health and social services issues affecting their particular population.
 - The translation network, which facilitates access to healthcare documentation in English.

Visit www.chssn.org for the latest reports on CHSSN activities under “Access” and “Community Netlink”.

Social Issues

In August 2005 and again in February 2006, the ESCC wrote to Cabinet Ministers and other Members of the National Assembly to add our voice in urging the Provincial Government to provide sufficient funding to support anti-poverty measures and ensure that the obligations set out in Bill 112 (An Act to combat poverty and social exclusion) are being respected specifically.

i) Poverty

In June 2005, the Government presented its first annual report on the implementation of its Action Plan according to the provisions of the Act. The Plan includes a set of measures representing an investment of \$2.5 billion over the next five years, reaching out to families, children, and young people at different stages of their life. These include for example:

- services to families in need (Child Assistance);
- the Work Premium;
- provision of stimulating environments for children in high poverty areas;
- activities and services aimed at improving academic success in schools in economically challenged communities;
- back-to-school support;
- coaching and counselling for those having trouble accessing the labor market;
- construction of low-rental and affordable housing units in disadvantaged neighborhoods;
- revamped income security system;
- medication policy.

Visit www.messf.gouv.qc.ca for the Year One Report – 2005 or phone toll-free 1-888-643-4721.

ii) Social Housing

The ESCC is aware of current financial assistance programs offered by the Société d'habitation du Québec designed to meet the needs of rental households, low-income homeowners and housing sector stakeholders. The challenge is to ensure that there is sufficient affordable and appropriate quality social housing throughout Quebec for vulnerable members of our society in order that they may live in dignity and comfort.

The Federal Government has promised tax cuts in the range of \$200 million to companies building affordable housing. (Affordable housing is government-sponsored housing with rents kept at a level deemed affordable but subject to market forces. In contrast, the rent for social housing is a percentage of the resident's income.) It is estimated that in Montreal, 96,000 people spend more than half their income on rent and 22,000 are on the waiting list for low-income housing.

The ESCC will continue its advocacy efforts with other concerned partners urging federal and provincial governments, to commit to investments in measures that effectively address child and family poverty and an affordable social housing strategy.

- The English Speaking Catholic Council enjoys membership and/or retains regular liaison with many community organizations working to support seniors, chiefly among which are:
 - The Quebec Alliance of Retirees and Seniors Associations (medical and nursing care; housekeeping; transport; social life; personal care, food and nutrition, and housing). Currently being reorganized.
 - Front D'Action Populaire en réaménagement urbain, FRAPRU, Social Housing;
 - National Council of Welfare;
 - Conseil des aînés;
 - Project Genesis (re. Drug insurance plan);
 - CCS, Good Shepherd Community Centre, the Teapot 50 Plus Centre, Almage Senior Community Centre, Benedict Labre House, Share the Warmth Foundation;
 - Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP);
 - Quebec Association for Adult Learning;
 - Department of Theological Studies of Concordia University (Loyola Campus), Pastoral Certificate program.

Information to improve access to opportunities and further enhance the quality of life of all Canadian seniors and children is abundant:

- Health Canada's Seniors Guide to Federal Programs and Services: (Pension & benefits; taxes; housing; health; human rights; lifelong learning; safety and security; disability assistance; environment; travel; volunteer activities; etc.).

This publication is available by telephone at (613) 952-7606, by fax at (613) 957-9938, by e-mail at seniors@hc-sc.gc.ca or via website www.hc-sc.gc.ca/seniors-aines.

Services for Children-Guide to Government of Canada Services for Children and their Families. The Government of Canada's toll-free telephone number is 1-800-(Canada (1-800-622-6232) and website at canada.gc.ca.

- In the Fall of 2005, the ESCC wrote to the then Federal Minister of Social Development, the Hon. Ken Dryden, calling on him to put in place an Action Plan which makes significant commitments in a number of key areas, notably, child and family poverty, affordable social housing initiatives, and programs that address the new reality of an aging population. The Council is pursuing these objectives with ministerial officials responsible for these files.

Cultural Issues

The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) established in 1995, represents all of the English-language minority organizations from the Outaouais to the Gaspé that receive program funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage for the development and enhancement of the vitality of the English-language minority communities in Quebec. Incidentally, our Executive Director, Martin Murphy, continues to serve as President of the QCGN.

Its Mission Statement reads:

“The Quebec Community Groups Network is composed of community organizations, institutions and other community stakeholders who are committed to work together to promote the vitality of the English-speaking communities of Quebec by responding to their priority needs and expectations.”

Its vision embraces the following values:

- Respect for diversity
- Responsiveness to different demographic realities across the province
- Active participation and decision-making at all levels
- Recognition of the contribution of youth
- Strengthened sense of identity, belonging and commitment to Quebec
- Innovative approaches and models
- Building on the community’s assets: being increasingly bilingual and multilingual; having established institutions; a network of community groups; a tradition of volunteerism; access to outside expertise.

The Quebec Community Groups Network has established a road map for how resources and talents can be mobilized, networks strengthened, institutional and organizational capacity built, and a new generation of leaders can acquire experience and visibility. The Plan presents a collective vision that has been elaborated by communities across Quebec.

Nomination /Succession

The ESCC's Nominations/Succession Committee's mandate exercised by the Advisory Committee is to ensure that the by-laws governing the membership of the Board of Directors are respected. The process includes the search for candidates, representative of the community, for election to the Board at each Annual General Meeting, keeping in mind the expertise and experience that will enable the Council to meet the challenges facing our community. It must also assure the succession of the Council's Executive Officers.

Finance

An annual budget and regular financial reports for the Board of Directors are prepared. It is expected that the ESCC should build a working capital reserve to correspond to one year's operating budget in order for the Council to continue to function without interruption from one fiscal year to the next. The Treasurer is in communication regularly with the Executive staff to review accounting and reporting procedures and to ensure that the financial resources of the ESCC are effectively managed.

The Council's audited financial statements for the period April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006 are presented in the next section of this report.

We wish to acknowledge with gratitude those organizations which have demonstrated confidence in the effectiveness and promise of the Council by financially supporting its activities, especially the Pillars Trust Fund, other community foundations and the Department of Canadian Heritage, thus permitting the Council to continue its work directed to the enrichment of a vibrant community.

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee, established in 1994, fulfills a supportive role for the English Speaking Catholic Council by providing continuity and enhancing the strength of the Council. It serves as a link for access to senior business and government officials and provides input on issues affecting the community.

To a limited extent, as a non-profit charitable organization, the ESCC may engage in non-partisan activities to influence law, policy and public opinion on matters related to its mandate. In this respect, the Council believes it has a responsibility to take a stand on issues when they infringe on democracy, social justice and related Catholic values.

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For the past twenty-five years, the English Speaking Catholic Council has served the English-speaking Catholic community through the commitment of dedicated volunteers who have devoted their time and resources in the service of others. I am very appreciative of all the encouragement the ESCC received from so many people in the community; the ESCC Board of Directors and its Executive Committee, Parish Priests, the Catholic Times, Catholic Community Services, Pillars Trust Fund, Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation, Father Dowd Foundation, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Archdiocese of Montreal, Msgr. Sean Harty, Episcopal Vicar and Director and staff of the Office for English Pastoral Services.

I am especially grateful to the Council's President, Colin Coole, for his support and dedicated service to the community. Finally, I wish to acknowledge the excellent work done by our Executive Secretary, Suzanne Brown.

Martin P. Murphy
Executive Director
June 1, 2006