



ESCC

# ANNUAL REPORT

2017-18



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## Message from the President

It is my great pleasure to present the ESCC's Annual Report for 2017-2018. As you can see from the Report, the Council has continued to sponsor programs, speakers and activities for the English-speaking Catholics of the Greater Montreal area.

The past year has seen two of the members of the ESCC Advisory Committee receive recognition for their contributions to society. In October 2017, former ESCC President, MNA and MP, Clifford Lincoln was presented with the Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award. The Goldbloom award is given to those individuals who have dedicated their lives to ensuring English-speaking Quebec remains a vibrant community. The President and Executive Director, along with other board members represented the Council at the Goldbloom Awards Reception. In December 2017, it was announced that Fr. John Walsh was to receive the Order of Canada. The government citation stated that Fr. Walsh is being honored "for his profound ability to forge ties and encourage dialogue between faith communities and for his long-standing commitment to charitable causes." The Council is delighted to see these two distinguished members of our community be acknowledged for their years of dedicated service.

On November 24th, I attended a Senior Isolation Workshop co-hosted by the ESCC along with the Father Dowd Foundation. It was encouraging to see the work that Seniors Action Quebec (SAQ) has undertaken for isolated seniors as well as to see seniors from the surrounding parishes of St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Augustine and St. Monica benefitting from the experience and advice of senior advocate, Ann Soden.

Our annual pre-Christmas gathering held on November 30th at Loyola High School was preceded by an excellent presentation by Dr Reginald Bibby, a well-known sociologist from the University of Lethbridge.

On February 16th, I represented the ESCC at a day-long Plenary Forum, an exchange session with English-speaking Quebecers and Kathleen Weil, Minister Responsible for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers, and William (Bill) Floch, Assistant Secretary of the Secretariat Responsible for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers.

It has been a privilege to serve as President of the English Speaking Catholic Council for the past two years. I would like to express my appreciation to the Board of Directors and staff. I have no doubt that in the upcoming years, the Council will continue to pursue with dedication its mandate to act as a catalyst, convener and facilitator of community life and collective action for the English-speaking Catholic community of Quebec.

*Diane Lemay*



### VISION

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



### MISSION

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

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2017-18

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





## BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY



On November 30, 2017, the Council, in collaboration with the Office for English Pastoral Services, hosted a free, public lecture by well-known Canadian sociologist, Dr. Reginald W. Bibby. Dr. Bibby is the co-author, with Angus Reid, of the 2016 book, *Canada's Catholics* and most recently, *Resilient Gods*. In a lively and engaging style, Bibby gave a short synopsis of the history of Catholics in Canada and then proceeded to paint a picture of the future. That future has everything to do with immigration. In less than twenty years, population growth in Canada will shift from a combination of natural increase and immigration to entirely immigration. In 2016, population growth was attributable to 30% natural increase and 70% immigration. In less than twenty years, all population growth will be owing to immigration. There is also a marked difference in religious commitment between those born in Canada and those born outside of Canada. On average, immigrants tend to be more religiously committed than the population that was born in Canada. Bibby noted that historically Catholics have had an ability to create communities for immigrant populations. Going forward, it will be important for the English-speaking Catholics of Quebec to remember and replicate this community building impetus and the Council is eager to continue to play a leading role in the animation of our community.

The English Speaking Catholic Council  
&  
The Office for English Pastoral Services  
present

**Being Pro-Religious, Low Religious, and  
No Religious in Montreal.  
A Mirror of Canada & the World.**

a Public Lecture  
by  
**Reginald W. Bibby**  
Board of Governors Research Chair  
Department of Sociology  
University of Lethbridge

7:00 p.m., Thursday, November 30, 2017  
Loyola High School  
2477 West Broadway, Montreal, H4B 2A4  
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Reception to follow.

An R.S.V.P. by November 23, 2017 would be appreciated.  
esc@bellnet.ca or (514) 937-2301, ext. 252 or 256



## ADVOCATING & EDUCATING

### Immigrants & Newcomers

As Dr. Bibby's lecture outlined, the English-speaking Catholic community in Montreal is seeing renewal and revitalization through the arrival and incorporation of immigrants and newcomers to our church communities.

As rates of immigration into the Montreal area have increased over the past few years, our parishes have seen a commensurate rise in the number of newcomers looking to our parishes for assistance in settling in to their new reality. This has led to both new challenges and new opportunities for our churches.

In 2017, the Council organized a number of round table conversations with community leaders to begin the process of assessing the current situation of newcomers and our parish communities. One of the proposed actions which emerged from these meetings was the creation and implementation of an online survey administered in key parishes which have a high proportion of newcomers.

The Council has begun work on this survey and it will be undertaken in the autumn of 2018. With the information gathered from the survey, the Council will be able to effectively communicate, both to the community itself and to government agencies, the reality on the ground for the many English-speaking newcomers to Montreal. The new knowledge provided by the survey will also allow the Council to more effectively collaborate with other community groups in the creation of new networks and projects which will benefit newcomers and immigrants.



### Seniors

The Council continues to host events and work with other community partners to assist and educate English-speaking seniors. As a follow-up to the workshop held November 18, 2016, it was suggested that Seniors Action Quebec (SAQ) be invited to report on the past year of their work on the pilot project GPS (Getting to Programs and Services). In cooperation with the Father Dowd Foundation, the ESCC hosted this workshop in November 2017. Following the morning session which showcased the SAQ project, lawyer and Elder Law specialist, Ann Soden spoke about her work at the Elder Law clinic and answered general questions specific to the concerns of senior citizens. This was an event designed for the English-speaking seniors of the area and it was advertised in the surrounding English-speaking parishes: St. Monica's, St. Ignatius and St. Augustine's. The Council was pleased to welcome a good number of the community to this informative session.

The Council has been working with the Father Dowd Foundation and Catholic Action in the coordination of a project to provide training for volunteers in the community, working in conjunction with a number of organizations which serve English-speaking seniors. The purpose of this training would be to coach volunteers in identifying, establishing trust and accompanying isolated seniors in the community. Catholic Action has the charge of this project and the ESCC has been pleased to act as a support and a networking resource for CA. The Council assisted in the organization of, and provided the funding for, two meetings of the staff and volunteers of organizations which support English-speaking seniors for the purpose of determining their training needs.

### Immigration to Montreal: 2011-2016 Regions and Countries of Origin: Total 180,000

Source: Origin and Numbers Statistics 2016 Census; Religious varied.

Origin	Numbers	Religions
<b>AFRICA</b>	60	
Algeria	15	99% Muslim
Morocco	12	93% Muslim
<b>ASIA</b>	47	
China	10	52% None, 18 Bud, 5 RC, 2 Mus
Syria	6	85% Muslim, 10% Ctn
Philippines	5	81% RC, 11% Ev, 6% Muslim
<b>AMERICAS</b>	40	
Haiti	16	85% RC
Columbia	5	80% RC, 13% Ev
Mexico	4	83% RC, 10% Ev
<b>EUROPE</b>	32	
France	15	51% RC, 40 None, 6 Muslim



## ADVOCATING & EDUCATING

### Canada Summer Jobs Program

The beginning of the year brought troubling news to many English Catholic organizations in Quebec. There are a number of English-speaking parishes, summer camps and organizations that have benefitted in the past from the federally-funded Canada Summer Jobs program which provided small grants to small businesses, community organizations and church groups to hire students for the summer. In December 2017, it was announced that in order to submit an application for funding, applicants were required to attest that their organization's core mandate respect individual rights in Canada which the government specified include reproductive rights. The application guidelines specified that reproductive rights include abortion rights. This new requirement was untenable for most English-speaking Catholic organizations within the network of the ESCC and the Council was called upon to assist in the crafting of a response to the situation. The Council also assisted in the creation and dissemination of a small survey undertaken by the Archdiocese to determine the number of organizations within the Archdiocese affected by the new requirement. The Council will be continuing to monitor developments of this issue and will be putting pressure on the federal government to drop this obligation in the upcoming funding cycle.



ESCC 2017-18 Annual Report

### Government relations

At the tail end of 2017, the Quebec government announced the establishment of a new Secretariat for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers and that Bill Floch would be heading it up. The announcement, following fast upon that of MNA Kathleen Weil being made Minister for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers, was a welcome one for the minority language community in Quebec. This move is the culmination of a number of years of collaborative work by the Quebec Community Groups Network which has long been advocating for an instrument for effective representation of the minority language community within the provincial government. By establishing this Secretariat, the Couillard government is in some ways emulating Ontario's Ministry of Francophone Affairs which has a staff of 20 and a budget of \$5.3 million. Minister Weil and her team hit the ground running and during January 2018, engaged in 16 hours of online consultations with 65 community groups and leaders. The ESCC was one of the groups which participated in the consultations. The Council was also present at the Forum held on February 16, 2018, at which Minister Weil presented the initial findings of the consultations. The Council has developed a liaison with the Secretariat team based in Montreal. Bill Floch, Assistant Secretary of the Secretariat, is scheduled to speak at the ESCC AGM, which will provide an excellent opportunity for the members of the ESCC to learn more of this new initiative.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

ACRA Association of Catholic Retired Administrators <a href="http://www.acracan.org">www.acracan.org</a>	Crib and Cross Franciscan Ministries <a href="http://www.cribandcross.org">www.cribandcross.org</a>	Institute For Christian Communities	Peace, Freedom and Healing Ministry <a href="http://www.fatherlou.com">www.fatherlou.com</a>
Adult Religious Education Services <a href="http://www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services">www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services</a>	Dans La Rue (Le Bon Dieu) <a href="http://www.danslarue.org">www.danslarue.org</a>	Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office (JPIC) <a href="http://www.jplic-visitation.org">www.jplic-visitation.org</a>	Pillars Trust Fund Inc. <a href="http://www.pillarstrust.org">www.pillarstrust.org</a>
Aid to the Church in Need <a href="http://www.acn-canada.org">www.acn-canada.org</a>	Department of Theological Studies, Concordia University <a href="https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/theology.html">https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/theology.html</a>	Knights of Columbus	Quebec Community Groups Network <a href="http://www.qcgn.ca">www.qcgn.ca</a>
Almage Senior Community Centre <a href="http://www.almage.org">www.almage.org</a>	Development and Peace – Caritas Canada <a href="http://www.dev.p.org">www.dev.p.org</a>	L'Abri en Ville <a href="http://www.labrienville.org">www.labrienville.org</a>	Quebec Life Coalition <a href="http://www.cqv.qc.ca">www.cqv.qc.ca</a>
Ancient Order of Hibernians <a href="http://www.aoh-montreal.com">www.aoh-montreal.com</a>	Diocesan Camping Association (DCA)	L'Arche Montreal Inc. <a href="http://www.larche-montreal.org">www.larche-montreal.org</a>	Residence Projet Chance Inc.
Auberge Madeleine <a href="http://www.aubergemadeleine.org">www.aubergemadeleine.org</a>	Diocesan Centre for Marriage, Life and the Family (DCMLF)	Legion of Mary – Montreal Curia	Sacred Heart School of Montreal <a href="http://www.sacredheart.qc.ca">www.sacredheart.qc.ca</a>
Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Foundation <a href="http://www.batshawfoundation.ca">www.batshawfoundation.ca</a>	Diocesan Family Camp <a href="http://www.dfc-kinkora.ca">www.dfc-kinkora.ca</a>	Logifem Inc. <a href="http://www.logifem.org">www.logifem.org</a>	Saint Antoine 50+ Community Centre
Benedict Labre House <a href="http://www.benedictlabre.org">www.benedictlabre.org</a>	Diocesan Liturgy Camp <a href="http://www.campdlc.com">www.campdlc.com</a>	Loyola Alumni Founding Chapter <a href="http://www.concordia.ca/alumni-friends">www.concordia.ca/alumni-friends</a>	Salesian Youth Centre (Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre) <a href="http://www.dylc.com">www.dylc.com</a>
Camp Caritas <a href="http://www.campcaritas.ca">www.campcaritas.ca</a>	Diocesan Liturgy Services <a href="http://www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services-resources/liturgy.html">www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services-resources/liturgy.html</a>	Loyola High School <a href="http://www.loyola.ca">www.loyola.ca</a>	Separated and Divorced Catholics
Camp Kinkora <a href="http://www.campkinkora.com">www.campkinkora.com</a>	Diocesan Office for Faith Education <a href="http://www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services-resources/faith-education.html">www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services-resources/faith-education.html</a>	Loyola High School Alumni and Associates <a href="http://www.loyola.ca">www.loyola.ca</a>	Social Action Ministry Office (Diocesan)
Canadian Centre for Ecumenism <a href="http://www.oikoumene.ca">www.oikoumene.ca</a>	Diocesan Priesthood Guild of Montreal (DPG)	Loyola High School Foundation <a href="http://www.loyola.ca">www.loyola.ca</a>	Social Justice Connection <a href="http://www.sjc-cjs.org">www.sjc-cjs.org</a>
Catholic Action Montreal <a href="http://www.catholicaction.ca">www.catholicaction.ca</a>	Diocesan Visions Camp <a href="http://www.visionscamp.ca">www.visionscamp.ca</a>	Marguerite Bourgeoys Museum and Chapel <a href="http://www.marguerite-bourgeoys.com">www.marguerite-bourgeoys.com</a>	St. Margaret Residence
Catholic Charismatic Services of Montreal	Diocesan Vocations Office	Marriage Preparation (Diocesan)	St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary Chapel <a href="http://www.smhc.qc.ca">www.smhc.qc.ca</a>
Catholic Christian Outreach	Diocesan Youth in Action Camp <a href="http://www.youthinactioncamp.ca">www.youthinactioncamp.ca</a>	MECUM Contemplative Christian Community	St. Mary's Hospital Centre <a href="http://www.smhc.qc.ca">www.smhc.qc.ca</a>
Catholic Times Montreal Inc. (archives)	Diocesan Youth Ministry Office <a href="http://www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services-resources/youth-ministry.html">www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services-resources/youth-ministry.html</a>	MEDITATIO The Canadian Christian Meditation Community <a href="http://www.wccm-canada.ca">www.wccm-canada.ca</a>	St. Mary's Hospital Foundation <a href="http://www.stmaryshospitalfoundation.ca">www.stmaryshospitalfoundation.ca</a>
Catholic Women's League of Canada	Don Bosco Mission Office <a href="http://www.dbmo.ca">www.dbmo.ca</a>	Montreal Challenge Movement <a href="http://www.montrealchallenge.ca">www.montrealchallenge.ca</a>	St. Patrick Development Foundation (St. Patrick Square) <a href="http://www.spsquare.ca">www.spsquare.ca</a>
CCS – Collective Community Services <a href="http://www.ccs-montreal.org">www.ccs-montreal.org</a>	En Route Foundation <a href="http://www.ca.en.clonline.org">www.ca.en.clonline.org</a>	Montreal Directed Retreats <a href="http://www.montrealretreats.org">www.montrealretreats.org</a>	St. Patrick's Society of Montreal <a href="http://www.spsmtl.com">www.spsmtl.com</a>
Centre for Reproductive Loss <a href="http://www.crl-rho.org">www.crl-rho.org</a>	Executives Available	Montreal English Catholic Cursillo Movement	The Alpha Course
Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Montreal	Family Matters / The Marriage Workshop <a href="http://www.letstalkaboutlove.ca">www.letstalkaboutlove.ca</a>	Montreal Pro-Life <a href="http://www.prolifemtl.org">www.prolifemtl.org</a>	The Priority School <a href="http://www.priority.qc.ca">www.priority.qc.ca</a>
Citizen Advocacy Montreal <a href="http://www.parrainagemontreal.org">www.parrainagemontreal.org</a>	Family Retreat Centre (Dominus Vobiscum) <a href="http://newmancentre.org/dominusvobiscum-ca/wp/">newmancentre.org/dominusvobiscum-ca/wp/</a>	Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation	The Teapot 50 Plus Centre Lachine Senior Citizens <a href="http://www.theteapot.org">www.theteapot.org</a>
City House Foundation <a href="http://www.sacredheart.qc.ca">www.sacredheart.qc.ca</a>	Father Dowd Foundation	Nazareth Community Nazareth House & Anne's House <a href="http://www.nazarethcommunity.com">www.nazarethcommunity.com</a>	Theology Book Ministry <a href="http://www.theologia.ca">www.theologia.ca</a>
Commissioner of Official Languages	Father Dowd Residence	Newman Association of Montreal Inc. <a href="http://www.newmancentre.org">www.newmancentre.org</a>	Thomas More Institute <a href="http://www.thomasmore.qc.ca">www.thomasmore.qc.ca</a>
Communion and Liberation <a href="http://www.ca.en.clonline.ca">www.ca.en.clonline.ca</a>	Father Dowd Residence Auxiliary	Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel <a href="http://www.marguerite-bourgeoys.com">www.marguerite-bourgeoys.com</a>	United Irish Societies of Montreal Inc. <a href="http://www.montrealirishparade.com">www.montrealirishparade.com</a>
Community Health and Social Services Network <a href="http://www.chssn.org">www.chssn.org</a>	Foundation of Catholic Community Services Inc. <a href="http://www.fccsmontreal.org">www.fccsmontreal.org</a>	Notre Dame de Sion Elementary School (Bilingual) <a href="http://www.ebnds.ca">www.ebnds.ca</a>	Villa Maria Foundation
Concordia University Catholic Student Association (CUCSA) <a href="http://www.facebook.com/cucsa">www.facebook.com/cucsa</a>	Holy Cross Residence	Office for English Pastoral Services (O.E.P.S.)	Vila Maria High School <a href="http://www.villamaria.qc.ca">www.villamaria.qc.ca</a>
Consensus Mediation Centre (CMC) <a href="http://www.consensusmediation.org">www.consensusmediation.org</a>	Ignatian Spirituality Centre of Montreal <a href="http://www.ignatiantremtl.ca">www.ignatiantremtl.ca</a>	Pastoral Home Care Services (S.A.S.M.A.D. – English Sector) <a href="http://www.facebook.com/pastoralhomecare-reservices">www.facebook.com/pastoralhomecare-reservices</a>	West Island Citizen Advocacy <a href="http://www.volunteerwica.com">www.volunteerwica.com</a>
Couples for Christ (CFC)			Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWMME) <a href="http://www.wmme.org">www.wmme.org</a>



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Pillars Trust Fund



Department of Canadian Heritage

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