



ESCC

2019 - 20 **Annual Report**

The English Speaking Catholic Council

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Executive Director

Suzanne Brown
Executive Assistant



Message from the President

It is with great pleasure that I present the ESCC's Annual Report for 2019-2020. Through the work and activities of the past year, the Council has been engaged with its core mandate of representing the needs and defending the rights of English-speaking Catholics in Quebec. Working with community partners such as Catholic Action Montreal, Seniors Action Quebec (SAQ), Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network (QESCREN), APPELE-Quebec and Community Health and Social Services Network (the CHSSN, on which Board I am privileged to serve), the ESCC has sought to improve the quality of life for English-speaking seniors, promote access to English-language health and social services, defend the rights of the minority language community to manage and control their educational facilities and welcome and integrate newcomers to the English-speaking community of Quebec.

The Council was gratified to see ESCC Advisory Committee member and former ESCC Executive Director, Martin Murphy awarded the Sheila & Victor Goldbloom Community Service Award for his long and exemplary service to the English-speaking community of Quebec. As a beneficiary of his expertise for so many years, the Council was pleased that Martin's role in the establishment of both the QCGN and CHSSN as pillar organizations that serve and represent the minority-language community was recognized and celebrated.

The staff, Board and Advisory Committee were saddened to learn of the death of Andrew Fogarty on February 14, 2020, just a couple of months shy of his 101st birthday. Andy was deeply involved in the life of the English-speaking Catholic community and was a founding Director of the ESCC.

The emergence of Covid-19, and the subsequent containment measures instituted by the provincial government in early March 2020, made for a very strange end to the fiscal year for the Council. Like so many other organizations, the ESCC quickly switched to online mediums for communication, governance and outreach and looked to other organizations to see where the Council could be of assistance.

I would like to thank each of the Directors of the Board for their generous contribution of time to the work of the Council. It has been a pleasure to serve with you. In addition, I would like to thank our Executive Director, Anna Farrow and our Executive Assistant, Suzanne Brown for their efforts on behalf of the Council.

Paula Celani

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 Planning 2019-20

In alignment with our mission to act as a catalyst, convener and facilitator of community life and collective action for the English-speaking Catholic Community of Greater Montreal and to develop positions on issues of public concern which affirm and promote Catholic ideals and values, the Council will engage in the following activities:

- 1** Participate with community organizations and initiatives which advance the interests of the English-speaking community in Quebec, with a particular emphasis upon, and concern for the English-speaking Catholic community.
- 2** Work with community leaders to welcome and integrate new immigrants and newcomers to the English-speaking community of Quebec.
- 3** 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.
- 4** Collaborate with established networks to promote access to English-language health and social services.
- 5** Engage with community leaders and government representatives on life and education issues, including but not restricted to, abortion, euthanasia and palliative care.

Advocating

In the early part of 2019, the ESCC was approached to join a coalition being formed to oppose the provincial government's moves to eliminate elected school boards in favor of service centers. The Council became a supporting organization to APPELE, Alliance for the Promotion of Public English-Language Education, in March 2019 and has subsequently participated in press conferences and meetings to help raise awareness about the minority-language community and its rights to control and manage its educational institutions.

Bill 40, an enormous piece of legislation which includes some 84 separate amendments to provincial legislation, was tabled on October 1, 2020. The ESCC directly participated in the hearings organized by APPELE-Québec on November 19, 2019, in advance of select members of APPELE-Québec appearing at the hearings held on Bill 40. The ESCC statement presented that day was delivered to Jean-François Roberge, Education Minister, by the APPELE-Québec team. The APPELE-Québec brief on Bill 40 notes that

In June 2019, the Executive Director was invited to join the Seniors' Committee of the Access to Justice project, funded by the Department of Justice Canada and implemented by the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN). The ED participated in meetings of the subcommittee and suggested several members of the community to the Seniors' subcommittee. The Council is excited to participate in this initiative and will continue to engage as this project evolves.

the legislation is “unworkable and presents unnecessary obstacles to the exercise of our constitutional rights in its current format. We fear that it will discourage community and volunteer involvement and increase control of our school system by the education minister and officials in Quebec City.”

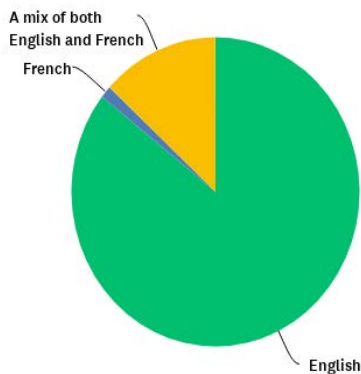
The Council is closely following the court case launched by the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) and the nine English school boards in June 2020. It will continue to support, in whatever way it can, the initiatives of APPELE-Québec.



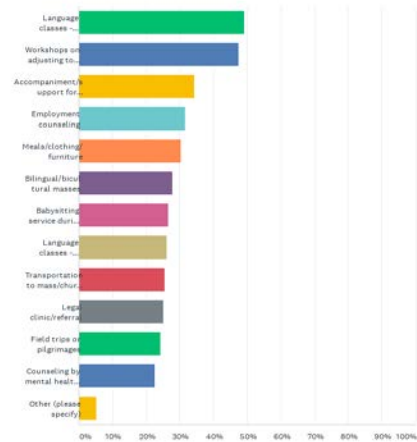
Assisting

The survey entitled *Parishes & Newcomers*, developed by the Council in 2018-2019 and reported on at the 2019 Annual General Meeting, was distributed in hard copy form to three additional parish communities resulting in an additional 250 responses. Following the implementation of the surveys, focus groups within the parish context were planned to gather more information on the needs expressed in the surveys. Unfortunately, one of these focus groups was cancelled due to Covid-19 measures. In collating the information gathered from the over 600 responses collected, a strong need was expressed for some form of French language instruction or conversation groups within the parish context. Parishioners, who are newcomers, also reported the need for workshops on adjusting to life in Canada. The ED is currently meeting with partners from Concordia University, as well as leaders from the parishes, to explore the possibility of establishing conversations groups and/or homework assistance groups in select parishes. The development of these programs in parishes that have a high percentage of new immigrants is a continuing priority for the Council and will carry on into next year.

Q10 Which official language is most commonly spoken in your home?



Q19 Please tick any of the following services that you feel would benefit newcomers (with the understanding that your parish may not have the current capacity to offer these services).



Catholic Action Montreal has been instrumental in the establishment of an informal coalition of organizations working with and for English-speaking seniors, One Voice. There are some 20 organizations associated with One Voice and each organization connects with between 250 to 2000 seniors in a year. Through regular meetings and workshops, the staff of these organizations are able to share information, discuss common challenges and brainstorm solutions. The ESCC has collaborated with CAM in this enterprise through networking, organization, and in covering the costs associated with the One Voice meetings. In February 2020, on behalf of the One Voice Coalition, the ED drafted a letter to the Regional Access Committee requesting a 2-3 page brochure which, in clear and simple language, would explain

the provision of English-language services in the Montreal region. The concern is particularly for English speaking seniors who, as the letter states, often are bewildered as to how their rights to health care in English, “are made tangible in the current system, what the limits of those rights are, and where seniors should be pushing to receive services in English and where they do not, in fact, have a right to such service. We have seen that

this confusion leads to a reluctance to request services and written information in English or to report upon the lack of linguistic access.” The right of the minority-language community to receive health and social services in English is one that is easily eroded. The Council is concerned to see that this right, where it exists, is safeguarded and defended.



Animating

The ESCC Christmas gathering for the English-speaking parishes of the Archdiocese was held on November 29, 2019 at St. Monica's Parish in N.D.G. At this event, the priests, wardens, staff, catechists, employees of the Archdiocese and Board members from the various organizations active in our community were able to socialize and enjoy a wine and cheese reception. At that reception, special mention was made by President of the Board, Paula Celani of the honor that former ESCC Executive Director, Martin Murphy had received in October 2019, namely the QCGN Sheila & Victor Goldbloom Community Service Award.



SOCIAL ISOLATION & THE CROWDED CITY



Public Lecture by
Milton Friesen
Program Director of
Social Cities at Cardus

MARCH 26, 2020 7-9pm
ATWATER LIBRARY
AUDITORIUM
Refreshments to follow

There is considerable irony in the fact that the ESCC public lecture scheduled for March 26, 2020, and then canceled in the wake of provincial guidelines, was entitled "Social Isolation and the Crowded City." If "social isolation" has been identified as particularly emblematic of our 21st century society, that isolation is now being experienced at an entirely new level and thought about in an entirely new way. Plans are currently underway for an online webinar on the topic of social isolation and a discussion of the community's response to Covid-19 and the lessons learned during the time of lockdown.

Community Resources

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

Contact Information



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