



ESCC



English-Speaking Catholic Council
Annual Report 2021-22



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Suzanne Brown
Executive Assistant

I am happy to present the ESCC's Annual Report for 2021-2022. Though much of the past year has been dominated by COVID-19, the important work of the Council has carried on. Through engagement with community leaders and collective action the Council continues to advocate and organise for the English-speaking Catholic community of Quebec.

Despite COVID restrictions, the Council continued to provide opportunities, through online and in-person events, for our senior and newcomer population to be informed and engaged. The Council certainly looks forward to the upcoming year when more regular programming will be possible.

Our 40th Anniversary "Toast", held in December, an online event held in lieu of our traditional Christmas gathering, was a convivial evening that brought together many of those who have supported the work of the Council over the years. Our year of anniversary celebrations looked back in gratitude but also looked forward with hope. Reaching out to a new generation of English-speaking Catholics, the Council organised a project for students of Sacred Heart and Loyola High School to engage with the history of language legislation in Quebec.

Understandably, the Council's efforts this year have been focused on Bill 96. This legislation, passed into law on only a few weeks ago, has far-reaching implications for not only the English-speaking community but for the business community, immigrants and the youth of our province. In fact, there is not one aspect of life in Quebec that will not be impacted by Bill 96. The law has introduced a level of concern into the English-speaking community of Quebec not felt since the last referendum. The Council worked closely with the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) over the past year to educate and inform the community about the impact of the bill as well as to make its concerns known to the various levels of government.

On behalf of the Board of the ESCC, I would like to acknowledge and thank our funders: the Government of Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage, the Pillars Trust Fund, Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation, and the Father Dowd Foundation. We are grateful for the trust placed in us and look forward to many more years of productive collaboration.

I would like to extend a heartfelt word of thanks to the members of the Board of Directors for their generous contribution of time to the work of the Council. It has been a pleasure to serve with you. I would also 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 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.

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.

Strategic Priorities 2021-22

Together with the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN), the ESCC funded and organized an investigative study of English-speaking seniors and access to the health and social services system.

The purpose of the study was to understand the experience of English-speaking seniors in accessing and interacting with health and social services and the resultant effect on health care outcomes. Through the implementation of a survey and the hosting of focus groups, the study gathered information directly from English-speaking seniors. The findings have now been written up and presented to the One Voice Coalition and will be used to assist those organizations working with seniors to better advocate for their clientele.

Taking advantage of the short window of time when Covid-restrictions were lifted in the late summer and early autumn 2021, the Council, with the collaboration and support of the Pillars Trust



Fund, organized and provided five, in-person “Senior Information Sessions” at three English-speaking Catholic parishes: St. Edmund of Canterbury, St. Monica and St. Ignatius. After surveying English-speaking Catholic seniors about their interest level in a variety of topics, the Council provided professionals in their field to present on navigating the Health and Social Services system, aging at home or relocation, and aging and mental health.

There was an overwhelmingly positive response to the sessions with respondents to the evaluations saying, “keep doing more workshops.” As a result, the Council and Pillars plan to expand these workshops in 2022 to include sessions on other topics, including finance and protection from fraud, estate planning & funeral arrangements, and nutrition for seniors. The hope is to increase the number and geographic range of parishes involved.

The Council hosted two Zoom tax information workshops animated by the Canadian Revenue Agency. The first was for newcomers to Canada and the second for seniors. This was the second year in a row that the Council had facilitated tax information sessions.



Senior Sessions at St. Edmund's

RELEVANT INFORMATION

Hosted by the **Pillars Trust Fund** and the **English Speaking Catholic Council**, these information sessions will give you an opportunity to learn about three different topics of relevance to you.

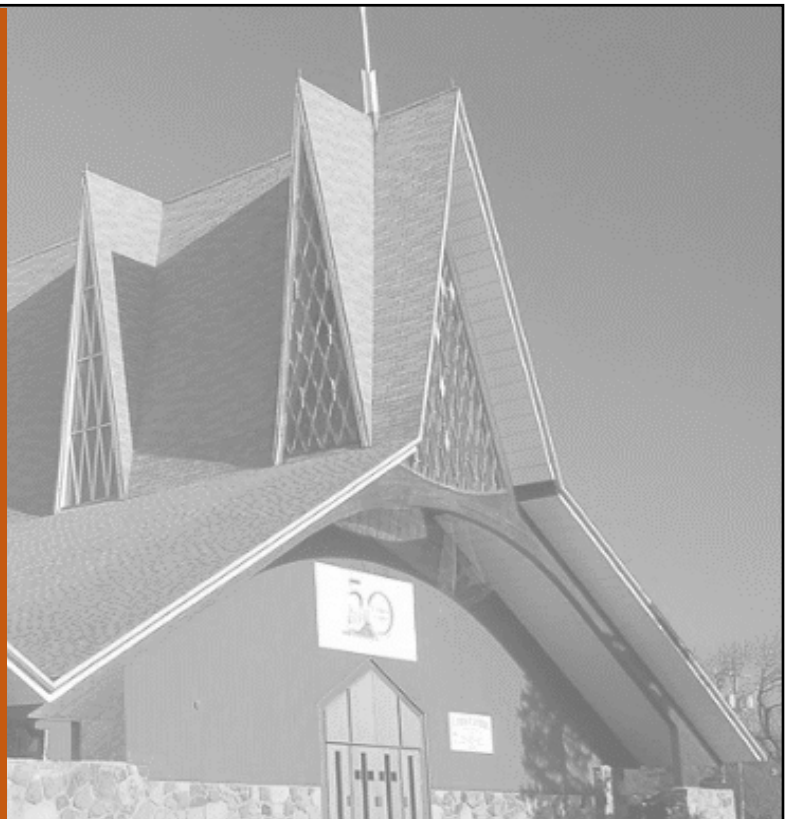
TIME TO SOCIALIZE

After months of limitations on our social connections, it is time to be together again!

Enjoy a cup of coffee, a treat and time with friends.

QUESTIONS? NEED HELP?

514-937-2301 x252
admin@pillarstrust.org



Navigating the Health & Services Network

Joanne Besner, Professional Coach & Health & Social Services Consultant

August 24 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register.

Age at home or relocate? – What is best for you?

Marie-Claude Giguère, Stay or Move? Consultant

September 21 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register.

Aging & Mental Health

Dr. Wendy Chiu, Geriatric Division, McGill University

October 26 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register.



Language Politics

Bill 96: An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec was tabled on May 13, 2021, and, despite valiant efforts on the part of the English-speaking community of Quebec, was passed into law on May 26, 2022.

The new law pre-emptively invokes the notwithstanding clause and shelters the Charter of the French Language from the rights and freedoms Quebecers enjoy under both the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

These sweeping changes to the constitutional and human rights landscape of Canada leave the Council gravely concerned. Throughout 2021 and 2022, the ESCC worked closely with community partners to voice those concerns and to educate and advocate for the linguistic and human rights of the English-speaking community.





It bears repeating, in every submission and in every statement, that the pre-emptive use of section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to circumvent application of sections 1 through 38 of that same Charter is one which tips the balance of power towards the legislature and deprives citizens of their freedoms. These freedoms and rights should not be understood as arbitrary privileges to be dispensed by the government but as human rights that should never be subject to the whims of a particular cohort of elected officials.

In November 2020, the Executive Director, Anna Farrow, was elected to the Board of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN). She was subsequently asked to serve on a Communications & Outreach Advisory Committee of the QCGN. In her role as Executive Director of the ESCC and a Board member of the QCGN, she met with a wide range of community organizations and cultural communities to engage and inform community partners and individuals on the extent. Through the ESCC's connections with the Montreal Filipino community, we were able to connect the QCGN with this community to help raise awareness

about our concerns with Bill 96.

The ESCC used the occasion of the ESCC Annual General Meeting, held June 16, 2021, to raise awareness about Bill 96. The AGM was addressed by former MNA, MP and President of the ESCC, Clifford Lincoln and Senator Joan Fraser, former editor-in-chief, Montreal Gazette. Mr. Lincoln and Senator Fraser elucidated the content of Bill 96 and the anticipated effect upon the minority-language community of Quebec as well as the threat to the constitutional and human rights framework of Canada. Over 50 members of the English-speaking Catholic community were present.

On September 9, 2021, the Council presented a statement on Bill 96 at the QCGN's hearings on the bill, in advance of its presentation at the National Assembly. Alongside such well known advocates for the English-speaking Quebec community as Michael Bergman, Anne-France Goldwater, Geoffrey Chambers, and Clifford Lincoln, ESCC Executive Director, Anna Farrow spoke to two main areas

of concern with the legislation, namely: the Council's strong opposition to the use of section 33 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to override heretofore guaranteed Charter rights and the exclusionary insertion of "Quebecois et Quebecoise" as an amendment to the Constitution Act.

At the November 24, 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors, the Council passed a resolution to become an organizational signatory to the open letter to Premier Legault on the issue of the definition of Historic Anglos. The Council also encouraged the community to become individual signatories of the letter and many of the first signatories were Board members of the ESCC.



Like all community organizations, ongoing Covid-restrictions since March 2020 have meant that the Council has been limited in its ability to host in-person events. Nevertheless, the Council was able to mark the 40th anniversary of the ESCC using online forums.

On December 15, 2021, the Council hosted a virtual celebration of the 40 years of service and advocacy the ESCC has provided to the English-speaking Catholic community. Former Presidents of the Council, Martin Murphy (1992-1994 and Executive Director, 1995-2012), Don Myles (1994-1996), Sean Harrington (1996-1998), Clifford Lincoln (2007-2010), Paul Donovan (2012-2014) and Diane Lemay (2016-2018) addressed the gathering.

Each shared their memories of the important events and activities of their time with the Council. Together with their testimonies, a slide show of historic photographs and a time for reminiscences for the participants, the evening was a convivial and informative “toast” to the work of the Council.

In 2022, the Council has also undertaken a project to engage the students of Loyola High School and Sacred Heart on the history of language legislation in Quebec and the history of the Council. The students were given a presentation by Clifford Lincoln on his experience as a member of the National Assembly in the crucial years between 1981-1989 and a separate session with Emma Haraké, Coordinator and Community Facilitator of the Concordia Centre for Oral History. Following these sessions, the students interviewed a member of their family on their experience of Bill 101, the sovereignty referendums and the changes to education in the province. The results of their work will be presented in a compilation video at the ESCC AGM in June 2022.





Martin Murphy,
ESCC President 1993



1984: Alphonsine Howlett, Diane Berty, John Parisella, Patrick Rourke, Harold Thuringer, Richard Macklem



Marianopolis Catholic Action



Richard McConomy, Bishop Crowley
Award, ESCC Rally 1993



Sister Margot Power, recipient of 1987
Bishop Crowley Award, Tom Mulcair &
Bishop Leonard Crowley





Community Resources Directory

- 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.clonline.ca
- Community Health and Social Services Network
www.chssn.org
- Concordia University Catholic Student Association (CUCSA)
www.facebook.com/cucsas
- Consensus Mediation Centre (CMC)
www.consensusmediation.org
- Couples for Christ (CFC)

Crib and Cross Franciscan Ministries www.cribandcross.org	Knights of Columbus	Quebec Community Groups Network www.qcgn.ca
Dans La Rue (Le Bon Dieu) www.danslarue.org	L'Abri en Ville www.labrienville.org	Quebec Life Coalition www.cqv.qc.ca
Department of Theological Studies, Concordia University https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/theology.html	L'Arche Montreal Inc. www.larche-montreal.org	Residence Projet Chance Inc.
Development and Peace – Caritas Canada www.devp.org	Legion of Mary – Montreal Curia	Residence Robert Dobie
Diocesan Camping Association (DCA)	Logifem Inc. www.logifem.org	Sacred Heart School of Montreal www.sacredheart.qc.ca
DCA: Family Camp www.dfc-kinkora.ca	Loyola Alumni Founding Chapter www.concordia.ca/alumni-friends	Saint Antoine 50+ Community Centre
DCA: Liturgy Camp www.campdlc.com	Loyola High School www.loyola.ca	Salesian Youth Centre (Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre) www.dylc.com
DCA: Visions Camp www.visionscamp.com	Loyola High School Alumni Association www.loyola.ca	Social Justice Connection www.sjc-cjs.org
DCA: Youth in Action Camp www.youthinactioncamp.ca	Loyola High School Foundation www.loyola.ca	St. Margaret Residence
Diocesan Centre for Marriage, Life and the Family (DCMLF)	Marriage Preparation (Diocesan)	St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary
Diocesan Office for Faith Education www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services-re-sources/faith-education.html	Marriage Tribunal	St. Mary's Hospital Centre www.smhc.qc.ca
Diocesan Priesthood Guild of Montreal (DPG)	MECUM Contemplative Christian Community	St. Mary's Hospital Foundation www.stmaryshospitalfoundation.ca
Diocesan Social Action Ministry Group	MEDITATIO The Canadian Christian Meditation Community www.wccm-canada.ca	St. Patrick Development Foundation (St. Patrick Square) www.spsquare.ca
Diocesan Youth Ministry Office www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services-re-sources/youth-ministry.html	Montreal Catholic Challenge Movement join.montrealchallenge.ca/toda	St. Patrick's Society of Montreal www.spsmtl.com
Dominus Vobiscum Family Retreat Centre www.dominusvobiscum.ca	Montreal Directed Retreats www.montrealretreats.org	The Alpha Course
Don Bosco Mission Office www.dbmo.ca	Montreal English Catholic Cursillo Movement	The Priory School (Elementary) www.priory.qc.ca
En Route Foundation www.ca.en.clonline.org	Montreal Pro-Life www.prolifemtl.org	The Teapot 50 Plus Centre Lachine Senior Citizens www.theteapot.org
Executives Available www.ea-cd.ca	Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation	Theologia Book Ministry www.theologia.ca
Family Matters / The Marriage Workshop www.letstalkaboutlove.ca	Nazareth Community Nazareth House & Anne's House www.nazarethcommunity.com	Thomas More Institute www.thomasmore.qc.ca
Father Dowd Foundation	Newman Association of Montreal Inc. www.newmancentre.org	United Irish Societies of Montreal Inc. www.montrealirishparade.com
Father Dowd Residence	Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel www.marguerite-bourgeoys.com	Villa Maria Foundation
Father Dowd Residence Auxiliary	Notre Dame de Sion Elementary School (Bilingual) www.ebnds.ca	Vila Maria High School www.villamaria.qc.ca
Foundation of Catholic Community Services Inc. www.fccsmontreal.org	Office for English Pastoral Services (O.E.P.S.) www.diocesemontreal.org/en	West Island Citizen Advocacy www.volunteerwica.com
Ignatian Spirituality Centre of Montreal www.ignatiantremtl.ca	Pastoral Home Care Services (S.A.S.M.A.D. – English Sector) www.facebook.com/pastoralhomecareservices	Worldwide Marriage Encounter (ME) www.wmme.org
Institute For Christian Communities	Peace, Freedom and Healing Ministry www.fatherlou.com	
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office (JPIC) www.jpic-visitation.org	Pillars Trust Fund Inc. www.pillarstrust.org	



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Pillars Trust Fund

Canada

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