



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
AFRICA	60	
Algeria	15	99% Muslim
Morocco	12	93% Muslim
ASIA	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
AMERICAS	40	
Haiti	16	85% RC
Columbia	5	80% RC, 13% Ev
Mexico	4	83% RC, 10% Ev
EUROPE	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.



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



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Father Dowd Foundation



Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation



Pillars Trust Fund



Department of Canadian Heritage

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