



ESCC

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19



Bishop Thomas Dowd
Honorary Chairman

Executive Committee

Paula Celani
President

Jacques Darche
Vice-President

William (Bill) Kovalchuk
Treasurer / Secretary

Diane Lemay
Past-President

Board of Directors

Cristina Ardelean
Ferdinand Alfieri
Mark Bednarczyk
Catherine Bolton
Fr. Raymond Lafontaine
Elizabeth (Betty) McLeod
Ellen Roderick
Brian Vidal
Suzanne Wiseman

Advisory Committee

Gail Campbell-Tucker
Paul Donovan
Margaret Lefebvre
Clifford Lincoln
Mary McDaid
Martin Murphy
Don Myles
Harold Thuringer
John Walker
Fr. John Walsh
Robert Wilkins
John Zucchi

Staff

Anna Farrow
Executive Director

Suzanne Brown
Executive Assistant

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to present the 2018-2019 Annual Report of the English Speaking Catholic Council.

Some of our key achievements in alignment with our 2018-2019 Strategic Priorities include:

- Collaboration with the Father Dowd Foundation, Catholic Action Montreal and Seniors Action Quebec in the provision of training workshops for staff and volunteers of organizations serving the English-speaking senior population (September 2018 to June 2019)
- ESCC participation at the launch of Parish Vitality Conference (September 2018)
- Lecture by Ray Pennings of Cardus and Launch of ESCC Parish Survey (October 2018)
- Rally, Bishop Crowley Memorial Award (Daniel and Jacqueline Cere, for exceptional service to family life) and PVC (November 2018)
- ESCC Christmas Reception (December 2018)
- Official Languages Action Plan (January 2019)
- ESCC English-speaking Newcomers' Parish Survey, visits to English parishes in Montreal (November 2018 to June 2019)
- English Elected School Boards, ESCC becomes a Supporting Organization of APPELE-Quebec (March and April 2019)
- CAQ & Religious Symbols, Presentation of ESCC STATEMENT ON BILL 21 (May 2019)
- AGM, Survey Results and the Future (June 2019)

The ESCC remains deeply committed to its mission to act as a catalyst, convener and facilitator of community life and collective action for the English-speaking Catholic Community of Greater Montreal!

I would like to thank the members of the Board for their participation, commitment and valuable contribution over the year. It has made my role and experience as President so rich. I am truly grateful.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication, hard work and exceptional contribution of our Executive Director Anna Farrow and Executive Assistant Suzanne Brown. I personally thank you for your help and guidance in making 2018-2019 a very successful year.

It has been an honour for me to be the President of ESCC and to work with these exceptional individuals, the Board, Anna and Suzanne!

With gratitude,

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 PRIORITIES 2018-19

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

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

Secretariat at 2018 AGM

The Council was pleased to be able to welcome William Floch, the head of the newly formed Secretariat for English speaking Quebecers, as guest speaker at the ESCC AGM held on June 13, 2018. Mr. Floch spoke about the formation of the Secretariat and the opportunities provided to the English speaking community of Quebec in having an office within the provincial government dedicated to establishing clear lines of communication between the government and the ESCQ. Inviting Mr. Floch to the AGM allowed members of our English-speaking Catholic community to ask questions about the role, scope and mandate of this new government initiative. The AGM was well attended and provided a good opportunity for our constituency to intersect with some of the government and community representatives with whom the Council interacts.



DISCOVERING OUR COMMUNITY

On October 27, 2018, the ESCC hosted a public lecture on the topic of faith and immigration. The lecture was given by Ray Pennings, Executive Vice-President and Co-Founder of Cardus, a non-partisan, faith-based Canadian think tank, and was based on the findings of a 2018 poll implemented by Cardus and Angus-Reid. This survey sought to answer a number of questions including: What is the role of faith communities in the integration of new Canadians? What is the attitude of new Canadians to faith in the public square?

The Council used the lecture as an opportunity to launch its own survey, Parishes & Newcomers. The purpose of the survey is to obtain a snapshot of the demographics of our English-speaking parishes, to learn more of how parishes welcome newcomers and how they might better meet the needs of new immigrants. The Council has distributed the digital survey in the parishes through the ESCC Facebook page and website as well as through the Grapevine, the weekly e-newsletter compiled and will be able to report on its findings at the ESCC AGM. The Council intends to use the information gathered to help English-speaking parishes to better assist their parishioners who are newcomers to Quebec. It is currently investigating and establishing networks within the parish communities to accomplish this goal.

Christmas Reception

The ESCC Christmas gathering for the English-speaking parishes of the Archdiocese was held on November 30, 2018, 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. This is a relatively new initiative of the Council and it has been pleased to note the positive response of the community and the gradual increase in the number of people attending this event.



Daniel and Jacqueline Cere receive the BCMA

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

Catholic Community Rally

Over a span of 35 years, the Council has had the privilege to host the Catholic Community Rally (pictured left). For the third time since 2014, the Rally served as a kick-off event for the Parish Vitality Conference organized by the Office for English Pastoral Services. The Rally is a unique event which provides an opportunity for the many different groups that are active in our community to gather under one roof and showcase their mission and activities. The presence of both well-established organizations and those which are just getting started displays vividly the vitality of the English-speaking Catholic community of Montreal. The 2018 Rally took place at Loyola High School on the evening of November 16, 2018, with many groups opting to stay for the second day of the conference. The Rally was both well attended and well received with 92% of kiosk respondents evaluating the event as either very good or excellent.

Bishop Crowley Memorial Award

Through the medium of the Bishop Crowley Memorial Award, the Council has been able to focus a spotlight on those members or organizations of the English-speaking Catholic community of Greater Montreal who have provided outstanding service, who have gone above and beyond their normal responsibilities in that service.

The 2018 Award was announced at the conclusion of the Rally. Daniel and Jacqueline Cere (pictured left) were the recipients of the Bishop Crowley Memorial Award, which they received for their 20-years of labor in the re-creation of the Orelde Marion campsite into the Dominus Vobiscum Family Retreat Center. The Center has become a source of renewal to over 120 families and it continues to explore new ways of ministering to the community. For the past 3 years, DV has run a weekend in June ministering to single mothers and their families. The concluding sentence of the supporting letter perfectly sums up the quality of the Cere's service, "Dominus Vobiscum Family Retreat Center would not exist without them."

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Seniors



The Council has been assisting Catholic Action Montreal in the organization and financial support of a series of workshops designed to assist the employees of the senior centers which serve the English-speaking population, particularly in their work with isolated seniors. The first of these workshops was held on September 7, 2018. The topic was Listening & Grief. The Council and CA solicited feedback on the workshop via an online survey. The responses were universally positive. A second training workshop was held at St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish on November 30, 2018. The second and third sessions, held November 30, 2018 and January 24, 2019 were animated by Michael Udy, President of Seniors Action Quebec. A follow-up session to these training workshops was held April 4, 2019 and on May 8th, at the Catholic Centre, CAM and the ESCC co-hosted a workshop on grant writing and funding. One of the ESCC's longtime partners, Community Health and Social Service Network (CHSSN) participated in the event and new collaborative relationships were established.

ADVOCATING FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Since its inception, the Council has been actively engaged in representing and advocating for the rights and interests of the English-speaking Catholic community of Quebec and the past year has been no different.

Bill 21

The Council submitted a statement on Bill 21 (An Act respecting the Laicity of the State) to the public hearings organised by Coalition Inclusion, one of the organizations invited to speak before the Committee on Institutions at the National Assembly. The Council's statement received coverage in both the Catholic Register and Convivium.

In that statement the Council expressed its opinion that, "The debate over religious symbols and accommodation has been a near constant in the public square for the past number of years and as noted, this is not the first or even the second iteration of legislation which has been tabled to address this issue. Unfortunately, the Council sees nothing in Bill 21 which inspires confidence that it will put an end to that debate. In fact, it foresees that the enactment of the current legislation virtually ensures a continued stress upon the body politic, and unfortunately those stresses will fall unduly hard on those parts of the population struggling to find a path towards inclusion and integration in Quebec society."

ESCC & APPELE

In the early part of 2019, the ESCC was approached to join a coalition being formed to oppose the CAQ's plans to eliminate elected school boards in favor of service centers. Whilst recognizing that there are issues surrounding both the election process and board management, the Council also understands that democratically elected school boards are integral to the minority language community's ability to govern and manage their educational institutions. The Board of the ESCC passed a formal resolution supporting the mission and mandate of Alliance for the Promotion of Public English-language Education in Québec (APPELE-Quebec) and has become a Supporting Organization.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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

FUNDING PROVIDED BY



Father Dowd Foundation

*Montreal
St. Patrick's
Foundation*

Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation



Pillars Trust Fund

Canada

Department of Canadian Heritage

CONTACT INFORMATION



ESCC

English Speaking Catholic Council
1857 de Maisonneuve Blvd W.
Montréal QC H3H 1J9

Tel: (514) 937-2301, ext. 252 or 256
Fax: (514) 907-5010

escc@bellnet.ca
www.catholiccouncil.ca