

THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the President

I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report of the English Speaking Catholic Council, Inc., for the year 2010-2011.

In September 2010, the English Speaking Catholic Council adopted a Strategic Plan for the next five years. It remains faithful to its original mission and mandate when the ESCC was established in 1981 as a lay council and it provides a new focus for its Board of Directors in formulating positive responses to the many challenges facing our community. The Mission Statement calls on the English Speaking Catholic Council to act as a catalyst, convener and facilitator of community life and collective action and to advocate positions on issues of public concern which affirm and promote Catholic values related to human dignity, social justice and the common good.

The highlights of the activities of the English Speaking Catholic Council are captured elsewhere in this report and I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the results of our efforts in addressing emerging issues and ensuring our communities' interests and values are well-represented. In this regard, I wish to draw to your particular attention the Brief we presented in September 2010 to the Select Committee of the National Assembly on Dying with Dignity; the Brief we presented in December 2010 to the Federal Parliamentary Committee on Palliative Care and Compassionate Care; and the Public Lecture we cosponsored in October 2010 with McGill's Catholic Studies Program and the Newman Centre, and Concordia's Department of Theological Studies.

Current realities impel us to consider among other challenges:

- How can we manage scarce resources, both human and financial, maintain a network of community resources and develop leadership in our community?
- How can we appeal to young adults to participate actively in community development and contribute to creating a strong sense of belonging and commitment to our province?
- How can we ensure our seniors have access to forms of social assistance and healthcare consonant with their needs and to live with dignity, justice and freedom?

It has been a privilege to serve our community in the course of the past year through the work of the English Speaking Catholic Council. Our community is blessed to have so many committed and accomplished volunteers serving as members on the Board of Directors and on its Advisory Committee. We wish to acknowledge with gratitude those organizations which have demonstrated confidence in the effectiveness and promise of the Council by financially supporting its activities, especially the Father Dowd Foundation, the Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation, the Pillars Trust Fund and the Department of Canadian Heritage, thus permitting the Council to continue its work directed to the enrichment of a vibrant community. We are also very appreciative of all the encouragement the ESCC receives from so many people in the community, notably, the Archdiocese of Montreal and the Office for English Pastoral Services, Parish Priests, the Catholic Times, and CCS - Catholic Community Services.

I would like to thank our Executive Director, Martin Murphy and our Executive Secretary, Suzanne Brown, for their excellent work. The success of the Council is due in large part to their dedication and sound management. We are indeed fortunate to have a staff whose work is of such a high caliber and whose presence enables all of us to pursue our mandate.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McDaid, President
The English Speaking Catholic Council
Montreal, June 8, 2011

ESCC COMMITTEES 2010 - 2011

Executive

MARY McDAID
President

DANIEL CERE
Vice-President

PAUL DONOVAN
Vice-President/Secretary

CLIFFORD LINCOLN
Past-President

Education

- Monitors policy & legislation;
- Facilitates communication among leaders;

Health & Social Services

- Participates with other members of the Community Health & Social Services Network in promoting access to healthcare services in English for the English-speaking minority population, especially seniors, the vulnerable and those who have special needs.
- Ensures that Catholic values are promoted.

Social Issues

- Monitors legislation in the areas of poverty, income security, housing and family policy;
- Prepares position papers consonant with Catholic values.

Young Adults

- Encourages young adults to participate actively within organizations;
- Creates opportunities for development of leadership skills;
- Explores resources available for training and employment.

Seniors

- Advocates to improve the quality of life for Seniors.

Community Animation

- Organizes a celebration to affirm the dynamic and positive aspects of our community, including the presentation of the Bishop Crowley Memorial Award.

Communications

- Parishes, Media, AGM, Community Animation, Annual Report, E-Mail, and Web Page;
- Develops liaison with community leadership and its resources.

Finance

- Reviews monthly financial statements;
- Prepares budget proposal;
- Monitors investments.

Advisory

- Provides continuity and enhances the strength of the Council;
- Recommends names of candidates for election to the board;
- Offers advice on issues affecting the community.

Chairperson: Patrick Rourke

Membership: Warren Allmand, Gail Campbell-Tucker, David Dussault, Margaret Lefebvre, Mary McDaid (ex-officio); Neil McKenty, Don Myles, Daniel O'Brien, Claire Robinson, Harold Thuringer, John Walker, Fr. John Walsh, Robert Wilkins.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The following priorities were identified by the English Speaking Catholic Council (ESCC) for 2010-2011 :

1. Advocate to improve the quality of life for Seniors;
2. Advocate to support measures addressing Poverty (Bill 112);
3. Collaborate with networks to promote access to English-language health and social services;
4. Support initiatives directed to encourage Youth retention and educational/employment opportunities.
5. Liaison with the Quebec Community Groups Network:
 - i) Language Rights Support Program
 - ii) Cooperation Agreement for funding of the English-speaking minority community
 - iii) Greater Montreal Community Development Initiative
6. Liaison with the Archdiocese and the parishes of the English-Speaking Catholic community to:
 - i) promote collaboration with the Archdiocese on the evolving needs of this community;
 - ii) promote the presence of English-speaking representatives at all levels of archdiocesan life;
 - iii) support the public expression of the English-speaking Catholic community throughout the Archdiocese.
7. Promote Communications: Community's need for an independent and autonomous press/media.

Education

Time and time again, the ESCC has defended the right of parents to have free choice in religious education for their children in accordance with their religious convictions and personal conscience.

- In September 2008, a compulsory course in Ethics and Religious Culture (ERC) was introduced in all public and private elementary and secondary schools in Quebec. This new course in a student's program of studies marked one of the final steps in the secularization of schooling in Quebec that began with the constitutional amendment in 1997 and led to the replacement of denominational school boards with linguistic boards and schools.

In September 2008, Loyola High School filed a motion in Superior Court for an exemption and relief from the obligation to teach the Ministry of Education's Ethics and Religious Culture course. In June 2010, the Quebec Superior Court ruled in favor of Loyola's motion and on September 27, 2010, the Quebec Court of Appeals agreed at the request of the Government of Quebec to deliberate the judgment rendered by the Superior Court. We are still awaiting a ruling.

In June 2010, the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Quebec issued a communiqué expressing satisfaction in the acknowledgement by the Superior Court of the legitimacy of Loyola's position (www.eveques.qc.ca). In January 2011, the Association of Catholic Parents of Quebec (ACPQ) issued a communiqué calling on the Provincial Government to provide choices in religious education in light of the Bishops' appraisal of the Ethics and Religious Culture program. And the APCQ in line with the Congregation for Catholic Education, in a letter by its prefect, Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, recalled the position of the Catholic Church of "the right of parents to choose an education in conformity with their religious faith must be absolutely guaranteed" (Familiaris Consortio 40). He goes on to recall that the principle of subsidiarity (of the school to the parents) "excludes any kind of school monopoly". He further reminds us that: "The rights of parents are violated, if their children are forced to attend lessons or instructions which are not in agreement with their religious beliefs, or if a single system of education, from which all religious formation is excluded, is imposed upon all" (Declaration Dignitatis humanae (DH) 5; cf. c. 799 CIC; Holy See, Charter of the rights of the family, 24 November 1983, art. 5, c-d), which is clearly the case with ERC."

A family in Drummondville, Quebec, sought an exemption for their children to be enrolled in the Ethics and Religious Culture course but was refused by its local school board. This case is now before the Supreme Court of Canada. A joint application to intervene at the Supreme Court by the Association of Catholic Parents of Quebec (APCQ), the Catholic Civil Rights League, the Christian Group for Parental Rights in Education, the Faith and Freedom Alliance and the Coptic Christian Association of Greater Montreal was granted in March 2011. Other applications to intervene in the appeal to the Supreme Court were granted to groups including the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Canadian Council of Christian Charities, the Christian Legal

Fellowship, the Coalition for Liberty in Education, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and the Association of Quebec School Boards.” The ESCC looks with favor on the ACPQ’s request for support.

- In December 2006, the Ministry of Education announced funding provided for in a Canada – Quebec Entente to support the establishment of twenty-three Community Learning Centres now located in English-language schools in the province. It is an initiative which serves as “hubs” for English-language education and community development located in all regions of the Province.

Formed as partnerships between local schools, school boards and a variety of community architects, these centres focus on developing innovative responses to community priorities that have been identified by the individual communities these centres have been created to serve. Whether trying to provide access to conditions deemed necessary for student success, supporting life-long learning for families offering better access to quality health and social services, providing local employment opportunities or economic development services, these centres bring together a variety of resources and networking support required to implement successful community development strategies. The ESCC has been an active supporter of this initiative. It is always heartening being part of a process from the moment an idea is born until the moment when that idea is transformed into opportunities generating tangible benefits that enhance the vitality of our communities. (Visit www.learnquebec.ca).

- On December 17, 2010, the Ministère de la Famille et des Aînés announced a Directive on the activities of religious learning in early childhood centres and kindergarten entitled: “Quebec met fin à l’enseignement religieux dans les services de garde subventionnés.” This directive, as its title suggests, is that early childhood centres and subsidized child care are free of activities aimed at learning a belief, a dogma or practice of a specific religion. It does not include persons responsible for child care in recognized family environments. The directive refers to activities such as repeated recitation of prayers, hymns or learning religious gestures. It does not prevent early childhood centers and child care subsidies to emphasize the cultural aspects of religious holidays by decorating a Christmas tree or Easter eggs. The Directive will come into force in June 2011.

The ESCC has been in communication with the Assembly of Bishops of Quebec (AEQ), with representatives of the Quebec English School Boards’ Association, the Quebec Jewish Congress, the Muslim Council in Montreal.... There appears to be a sentiment that it would be futile to pursue any action principally because the Government has already legislated on provisions respecting education as regards confessional matters in the elementary and secondary schools and it is now extending these measures to these centres as well.

- In January 1993, the Advisory Board on English Education was established. Its mandate is to advise the Minister of Education on all matters affecting the educational services offered in English elementary and secondary schools. The term of office for the fifteen members on the Advisory Board is three years. Candidates are nominated by English education associations and organizations that represent teachers, parents, school and board administrators and commissioners as well as individuals involved in post-secondary education, and community representatives. The ESCC has nominated a candidate to serve on the Advisory Board for 2011-2014. (Visit www.meq.gouv.qc.ca/cela/default.htm.)

Health and Social Services

- In April 2010, the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal mandated CROP to evaluate the program on Access to Health and Social Services in English in the Montreal Region. The Agence invited representatives of English-speaking organizations and institutions, including the ESCC to participate in this evaluation. An inventory was taken of good practices and areas of vulnerability. The eighty-page CROP report was released in December 2010. (Visit www.santemontreal.qc.ca). At this meeting, the English Speaking Catholic Council underlined the importance of the spiritual dimension of personal identity and its importance to aging individuals and to people around them. It was noted that the elderly often enter a phase of intense search for meaning and for understanding of the nature of life and the place of the individual in the world. This search for meaning can be aided by the provision of pastoral relationships through the presence of clergy, trained laity and other spiritual advisors. The importance of the spiritual aspect of aging combined with the growing cultural and religious diversity of the Quebec population suggest that this challenge needs to be addressed directly and creatively.

The Ministry of Education is currently revising its directive on the organization of spiritual animation in health and social services' establishments. The ESCC has been in communication on this issue with the Ministry of Education and with the Assembly of Bishops of Quebec. The recommendation that spiritual and religious needs be included in the Access Plans that are currently being revised for the next three years was presented by the ESCC to Heather Clarke, the English-speaking representative at the Agence (Montreal), to Cyril Morgan, President of the Regional Committee (Montreal), and to Marjorie Goodfellow, Chairperson of the Provincial Committee on Access to Health and Social Services in the English-language.

- The Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN), is a network of seventy community resources, associations and public institutions dedicated to the development of health and social services for English-speaking communities in Quebec. Through the 2009-2013 Federal Road Map initiative, the CHSSN will receive a contribution of \$19.5 million from Health Canada to support the development of community-based health networks whose mission is to improve access to health and social services in English in Quebec. In the Greater Montreal Region, the CHSSN is supporting the development of four community networks,

networks, three on the island of Montreal and one in Laval. These networks cover eleven CSSS territories and have a wide range of partnerships and activities that all address improving access to English-language services. As in most communities across the province, these networks have identified seniors as one of their most vulnerable populations in their communities and have all actively addressed concerns for seniors such as implementing fall-prevention programs, supporting collaborative work with multiple community partners on topics such as caregiver support and seniors' abuse, and developing innovative strategies to support people with chronic illnesses such as diabetes. John Walker, a Past-President of the English Speaking Catholic Council, is a member of the Board of Directors of CHSSN. (Visit www.chssn.org.)

- In April 2011, Mr. Ron McNeil, Secretary of the Provincial Committee on Access to Health and Social Services in the English Language, Ministry of Health and Social Services, was invited to brief the Board of Directors on the merger of the Lindsay Rehabilitation Hospital with the Institut de réadaptation de Montréal to form the Institut de réadaptation Gingras-Lindsay-de-Montréal, and the implications arising therefrom. The Lindsay Rehabilitation Hospital having served a majority of English-speaking clients was recognized under Section 29.1 of the Charter of the French language. It was “designated”* under Section 508 of the Act respecting Health and Social Services and was included in the Montreal Region’s 2007 Access Programs (for all of its services).

Until its merger in 2008 with the Institut de réadaptation de Montréal, (which did not serve a majority of English-speaking clients), the Lindsay had maintained official bilingual status serving its mainly English-speaking patients. Since the Lindsay Rehabilitation Hospital and the Institut de réadaptation de Montréal amalgamated and the Institut de réadaptation Gingras-Lindsay (IRGLM), was created, the “designated”* status referred to above is now under pressure to be changed, especially from the St-Jean-Baptiste Society and may only qualify for one that is “indicated”*. The IRGLM has requested that the Office québécois de la langue française take a position on the issue. The ESCC has appealed to the representative of the Ministry to support positive measures which are generous, sensitive and compassionate to be included in the Access Plans for Health and Social Services at L’Institut de réadaptation Gingras-Lindsay-de-Montréal.

* A “designated” institution is one that is recognized under the Charter of the French language as having a majority of its clients who speak English and one which must make its services available both in French and English. An “indicated” institution is one that is legally bound to make the services that have been identified in the Access Plans available in English.

Social Issues

- In September 2010, the ESCC presented its Brief to the Select Committee on *Dying with Dignity* chaired by the MNA for Jacques-Cartier, Geoff Kelley, at the National Assembly public hearings in Montreal. The principal authors were Dr. Ramona Coelho, a family physician who works at the CLSC Metro in Montreal, and Dr. Philippe Violette, a resident

currently completing his medical training at the McGill University Health Centre and a Director on the Board of the ESCC. Representing the ESCC at the presentation of its brief were Dr. Coelho and Dr. Violette, Clifford Lincoln and Martin Murphy. Issues addressed included ethical priorities, arguments against legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide and a Catholic perspective in advancing principles and policies on human life. (See ESCC website at www.catholiccentre.ca/esc.)

- In October 2010, the ESCC co-sponsored a community gathering with McGill's Catholic Studies Program and Newman Centre, and Concordia's Department of Theological Studies. Professor José Casanova, Catholic Sociologist and Senior Fellow at Berkley Centre for Religion, Peace and World Affairs at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., spoke to a receptive audience at the St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Hall. He addressed the community on the theme: *Critical Challenges in Contemporary Catholicism: A Lay Response*. A report on this lecture written by Paul Allen, Associate Professor of Theology at Concordia, was published in the Winter edition of the *Catholic Times* and another article written by Laura Ieraci of the Archdiocesan Communications' Office was published on the Montreal Diocesan Website. (See ESCC website).
- In December 2010, the ESCC presented its Brief to the Federal Parliamentary Committee on *Palliative Care and Compassionate Care* in Dorval. The ESCC was represented by Dr. Ramona Coelho, Dr. Philippe Violette, Dr. Daniel Cere, Mr. Clifford Lincoln and Martin Murphy. Chronic Care, Home Care, Elder Abuse, the Dignity of the Vulnerable and Disabled were among the topics highlighted. Francis Scarpaleggia, M.P. for the Lac-St.-Louis riding was very appreciative of the ESCC's contribution. (See ESCC website.)
- In January 2011, the Pillars Trust Fund began a communications audit of the needs of the English-speaking Catholic community of Montreal, taking into account current resources as well as the potential use of new technology to achieve effective and timely communications. The Council's position is that in the future not only the Council but also more importantly the community at large will continue to have the need for an independent and autonomous Catholic press to provide news reports and critical analysis from a Catholic perspective of local, provincial, national, and global community events and developments. (See ESCC website re. Statement regarding the Situation of the Catholic Times.)
- In January 2011, the ESCC President and Executive Director attended a sharing session hosted by Pillars Trust Fund and the Father Dowd Foundation held at Ascension of our Lord Parish in Westmount. The meeting had two objectives: 1) To explain briefly the launching of a Diocese-wide Catholic Community Campaign to raise funds to meet the future needs of our community organizations; 2) To see what our short-term and long-term goals are and to better understand the evolving needs of the community. A follow-up meeting was held in April and another is planned for the Fall of 2011.
- There will be a major conference entitled *Trauma and Transformation – The Catholic Church and the Sexual Abuse Crisis* which will take place at McGill on October 14 and 15,

2011. The ESCC is co-sponsoring the conference. The program for this event will be published shortly.

Social Issues (Poverty)

- Advocacy to combat and ultimately eradicate poverty remains a high priority for the ESCC. In recent years, in collaboration with partners, we have been applying pressure on members of the National Assembly to support the inclusion of substantial funding in the budget for measures dedicated to the alleviation of child and family poverty.

In June 2010, Phase II of the Government's Action Plan for the period 2010-2015 was launched with total investments of \$7 billion over five years. It has four main thrusts: Greater involvement of communities in decision-making, fostering self-sufficiency of individuals, supporting income of disadvantaged individuals and improving living conditions of low-income individuals and families.

The March 2011 budget provides for many additional investments in measures designed to improve the economic and social environment for those living in poverty, including the

- I. Maintenance of the Work Premium, continuation of the Child Assistance program for underprivileged families and the commitment to conduct an annual review of the minimum wage by taking its effects into consideration.
 - II. Provision of additional investments of \$140 million for building 2000 new social and community housing units, bringing the total number of affordable and community units built since 2003 to 32,000.
 - III. Promotion of academic success (classrooms will be equipped with smart boards, multimedia projectors and laptop computers); intensive English instruction in French schools; Universities will have access to additional revenues as well as to a stable and predictable six-year financial framework.
- The Community Health & Social Services Network (CHSSN), recently released a major report on poverty levels among Quebec's Anglophones entitled "*Socio-economic Profiles of Quebec's English-speaking Communities*". This document is a singular new resource for policy-makers, researchers and service providers. It contains a comprehensive compilation of data on the nature and extent of poverty levels and will provide a fresh incentive for Government to respect its commitments in the legislation by continuing to take positive action to strengthen social justice policies. While the ESCC recognizes that leadership from government and program creativity are required to move forward, the Council will continue to be proactive in its advocacy efforts in order that it may witness a progressive and sustained decline in the poverty rate in the province. (See www.chssn.org.)

Social Issues (Seniors)

- In August 2010, a report developed as part of the mandate of the Quebec Community Groups Network “Blazing a Trail for Active and Healthy Aging – An Action Plan for Quebec’s English-speaking Seniors, 2010-2015 was launched.¹ It aims to increase awareness of existing resources available to English-speaking citizens in Quebec and to promote inter-community and inter-institutional collaboration.
- An electronic provincial database of existing services for English-speaking seniors in Quebec has been created. (See www.qcgn.ca). There are seventy organizations profiled. This resource which will be a powerful medium for community organizations to publicize the services they offer to seniors in English, is targeted at English-speaking seniors along with their family and friends, community organizations, and government departments seeking to locate a particular service in a specific region. Existing databases, directories and forums will be streamlined into a single clearing house for those looking for information on a variety of topics of interest to Seniors.
- In March 2011, the ESCC participated in a Seniors’ Forum, the purpose of which was to clarify the vision, mandate and objectives for a Provincial Seniors Network and to develop an Action Plan for 2011-2012. One hundred and twenty people from across the province attended the event. The ESCC was represented by the chairperson of its Seniors’ Committee, Anne Fitzpatrick, and its Executive Director, Martin Murphy.

As determined at the QCGN Seniors’ Forum, the principal objectives that an English-speaking seniors’ network will need to focus on in the next three years are:

- i) To advocate at all levels of government so that the English-speaking seniors of Quebec have access to all the services and programs that are necessary to maintain their health and vitality.
- ii) To improve access to information and resources for seniors and the organizations that serve them.
- iii) To promote the visibility of the Seniors Network as an inclusive English-speaking organization that is recognized as the voice of English-speaking seniors and to monitor the global services and programs available to them.
- iv) To ensure sustainability of the organization through adequate and timely funding, appropriate partnerships, results-based activities, shared leadership and by fostering inter-generational education and activities.
- v) To develop a mechanism (ongoing forum) to address specific local grassroots issues.

¹ Mrs. Sheila Goldbloom, a member of the Conseil des Aînés and former co-chair of the provincial consultation committee on Seniors’ Living Conditions, John Walker, a board director of both the QCGN and the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN), and ESCC Executive Director, Martin Murphy, contributed to the drafting of this document. (Visit www.qcgn.ca).

- It has recently been announced that the Quebec Government will be spending nearly \$20 million over the next five years to counter the rising problem of abuse of the elderly. The office of the Minister Responsible for Seniors, Marguerite Blais, has invited the ESCC to meet with the Minister to review a number of issues which continue to require government support, chiefly among which are:
 - i) Certification of residences for seniors;
 - ii) Funding to assist seniors for transportation, principally for medical appointments;
 - iii) Support for homecare and caregivers, and social housing and homelessness;
 - iv) Pastoral care in hospitals and other healthcare institutions.

Social Issues (Young Adults)

In March 2011, the ESCC launched its Young Adults' Committee, chaired by ESCC Board member Julie Lafontaine. Among its priorities will be to support initiatives in education and employment opportunities in the province. It is now considering:

- i) What activities should the ESCC organize which would appeal to young adults (21-39)?
- ii) What initiatives, in collaboration with other organizations, such as Youth Employment Services (YES), would address the issues of youth employment opportunities and retention?
- iii) How can the ESCC enhance the leadership capacity of our community, essential to its revitalization?
- iv) How can the ESCC build intergenerational links (youth and seniors) within our community?
- v) How can the ESCC collaborate with the Diocesan Youth Ministry?

The Committee wishes to cooperate with Youth Ministry Services of the Office of English Pastoral Services and through this network support leadership development of young adults in the parishes.

Cultural Issues

- In November 1995, the first Framework Agreement between the Government of Canada as represented by the Department of Canadian Heritage and thirteen English-speaking minority regional and sector groups which agreed to form the Quebec Community Groups Network signed a Framework Agreement. Today, there are thirty-six members. One of the fundamental objectives of the Official Languages Act that applies to all federal institutions is the promotion of English and French in Canadian society by enhancing the development and vitality of English and French linguistic minority communities and by fostering the full recognition and use of both official languages in Canada. The ESCC was one of the original signatories to this Agreement in 1995 and continues to benefit from financial support from

the Department of Canadian Heritage. The ESCC Past-President, John Walker, has served as a Director on the QCGN Board for the past two-years.

- In 1998, the National Human Resources Committee for the English Linguistic Minority was created to bring together federal government and community representatives in an effort to enhance the vitality of Quebec's English-speaking communities. Out of this initiative, eleven Community Economic Development and Employability Corporations (CEDEC) were established throughout Quebec. (Visit www.cedec.ca). The Federal Government provides approximately \$2.7 million annually to support two major priorities:
 - i) entrepreneurial development (network building and learning; arts, culture, heritage and tourism; emerging challenges);
 - ii) labor force development (bilingualism in the workforce; older and younger workers; immigration and labor force renewal; public service renewal).
- In 2008, the Language Rights Support Program (LRSP) which replaced the Court Challenges Program, was introduced. It aims to inform Canadians of their constitutional linguistic rights through public education, to provide access to an alternative dispute resolution process, and to support legal remedies that will allow the advancement and the clarification of linguistic rights. Made up of lawyers, dispute resolution specialists and minority language community representatives from across the country, the nine-member panel is responsible for guiding the LRSP's efforts. One of these experts is Montreal Lawyer, Richard McConomy. A Gaspé marketing firm manager, Brad McDonald is the other Quebecer named to the panel of experts. The LRSP also has a National Consultation Board which has five members from Quebec, viz., Robert Donnelly, Past-President of the Quebec Community Groups Network, Sylvia Martin-Laforge, QCGN Director-General, a representative of the Voice of English Quebec in Quebec City, ESCC Past-President, Clifford Lincoln and its Executive Director, Martin Murphy. The most recent meeting of the National Consultation Board was held in Ottawa in November 2010. (Visit www.lrsp.uottawa.ca).
- In May 2010, the ESCC was invited to attend a day-long consultation session by the Government of Canada on the implementation of the "Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality (2008-2013) Acting for the Future". This is an investment of \$1.1 billion over five years in priority areas including: Health, justice, immigration, youth economic development and arts and culture. The Director-General, Strategic Policy, Planning and Research, Canadian Heritage, has assured the participants that the dialogue will continue and will become an annual event (visit www.pch.gc.ca).

Nomination /Succession

The ESCC's Nominations/Succession Committee's mandate exercised by the Advisory Committee is to ensure that the by-laws governing the membership of the Board of Directors are respected. The process includes the search for candidates, representative of the community, for election to the Board at each Annual General Meeting, keeping in mind the expertise and experience that will enable the Council to meet the challenges facing our community. It must also assure the succession of the Council's Executive Officers.

Finance

An annual budget and regular financial reports for the Board of Directors are prepared. It is expected that the ESCC should build a working capital reserve to correspond to one-half year's operating budget in order for the Council to continue to function without interruption from one fiscal year to the next.

The Council's audited financial statements for the period April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011 are presented in the 2010-2011 ESCC Annual Report.

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee, established in 1994, fulfills a supportive role for the English Speaking Catholic Council by providing continuity and enhancing the strength of the Council. It serves as a link for access to senior business, institutional and government officials and provides input on issues affecting the community.

* * *

To a limited extent, as a non-profit charitable organization, the ESCC may engage in non-partisan activities to influence law, policy and public opinion on matters related to its mandate. In this respect, the Council believes it has a responsibility to take a stand on issues when they infringe on democracy, social justice and related Catholic values.

* * *

This is the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the English Speaking Catholic Council. For the past three decades, the ESCC has served the English-speaking Catholic community through the commitment of dedicated volunteers who have provided their time and expertise in the service of others and by contributions and the generous financial donations of community foundations. I am especially grateful to the Council's President, Mary McDaid, and other members of the ESCC Board of Directors and its Advisory Committee for their continuing interest and support of the work of the Council. Finally, I wish to acknowledge the excellent work done by our Executive Secretary, Suzanne Brown.

Martin P. Murphy
Executive Director
The English Speaking Catholic Council
Montreal, June 2011

