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# The ESCC Newsletter April 2024



## Welcome to the English Speaking Catholic Council's Newsletter!

We are thrilled and unnerved to be launching a monthly newsletter! Recently, and over the years, many of you have inquired about such a tool, or gently suggested it might contribute to building a relationship and reciprocities with you. Perhaps it will enable proactivity by helping us learn about your interests, gifts, and experience! Or, enrich what we are needing or planning to do, inform how we might pilot a project with another organization or team that you are connected with or devoted to! We dare think it might ultimately contribute to bolstering community resilience, notably by celebrating fruitful initiatives, positive impacts, and stronger ties!

In other words, our goal is to better inform you of what we are doing, collaborating on, and becoming! We hope to soon transcend the technical glitches that currently call for you to visit our website to peruse our newsletter. The intent is that those who want to receive news from us in their inbox will be able to do so while being able to easily unsubscribe at anytime.

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Facebook. We will shift to covering about 4 weeks' worth of developments.

As we say in French, bonne lecture!

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attentive  
listeners  
sensitive collaborative  
accepting talk inclusive  
voice living helpful awareness  
open pro-active faithful  
bold visibility minded  
people intelligent welcoming

## A Milestone in the Ongoing Strategic Planning Journey!

The ESCC has reached a milestone in its transformative journey toward strategic priorities that will be translated into a 2024-2027 action plan. The confidential “fireside chats” led by our consultant tapped into the perspectives of 12 internal stakeholders (staff, Board, and Strategic Planning Steering Committee members) and representatives from 10 of 13 (77%) targeted community organizations, groups, diocesan and lay team leaders, as well as all stakeholders.

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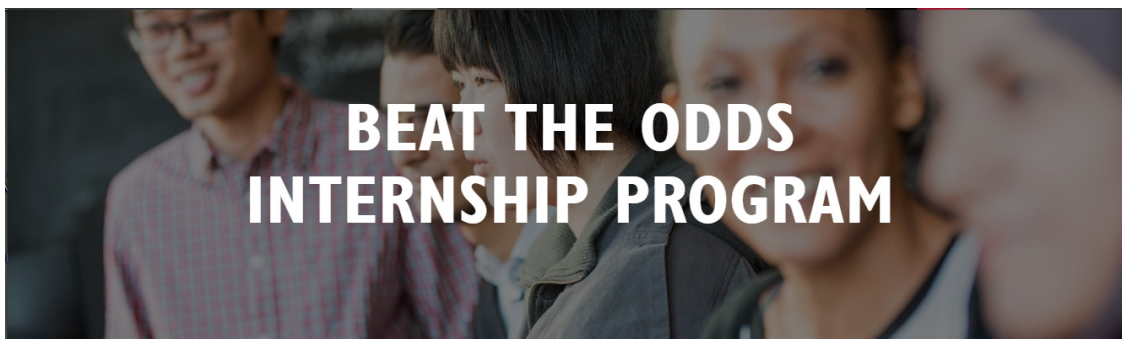
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## The ESCC Engaged in Representation and Capacity-building

Read all about our latest representation and capacity-building activities, from investing in QCGN roundtable activities to partaking in consultations held by the Official Languages Branch of PCH.

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Did you know that...

program in the fall?

The program “aims to help students in equity-deserving groups such as parents and caregivers, BIPOC and racialized students, members of the LGBTQ2S+ community, students with disabilities, students in financial need, international students, refugees and more”.



## Collaborating Toward the Wellness of Older Adults and Seniors

### One Voice Coalition with SAQ Lead Stewardship

On April 15th, the ESCC was among the organizations dedicated to the wellness of Montreal’s English-speaking older adults and seniors that came together to collaboratively craft a shared vision and mission for the One Voice Coalition. The findings of the January retreat day were appreciated, and the nuances that emerged helped move all into a consensus to start that was once again translated into a



## Celebrating and Building Relationships & Partnerships!

### Fruitful dialogues with PillarsTrust Fund representatives

On March 21st, the ESCC was invited to update members of the Pillars Trust Fund Board of Officers and Directors regarding progress made in strategic vision and planning, and emerging ideas for collaborative pilot projects. The in-person encounter followed a stimulating end of January dialogue with Aaron Warnongbri, president of the PTF Board. Keen observations and deeply relevant questions linked to the ESCC's legacy and its becoming contribute to the Council's readiness to engage in the phase of "determining ways and means" to actualize its mission and vision and formalize its 2024-2027 action plan.



## A Memorable Charity Luncheon

The ESCC upheld its lovely tradition of partaking in the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal's Annual Luncheon. The privilege of having Pauline Grunberg (Cummings Centre), Diane Lemay, Clifford Lincoln, Martin Murphy, and Dale Weil (Teresa Dellar Palliative Care Residence - Montreal Institute for Palliative Care) as guests was felt by all.

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were graced with representing the ESCC this year!

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## A Meditation that Indeed Came Alive!

Many partook in the March 29th **Via Crucis** that was organized by the Communion and Liberation movement's lifeforce in Canada. Some friends of the ESCC were among them!

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## Your Voice Matters – An Engaging Parish Vitality Conversation!

On April 6th, the ESCC joined many English-speaking parish members to reflect on the implications of being an outward-facing church. The small group work and plenary sharing graced participants and provided the convergences, issues for consideration and some proposals for integration within a summary to inform and support journeying toward new ways of “being” church.

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## Parish Survey Coupled with 2021 Canada Census Data

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Spencer alert: The ESCC is collaborating with Wendy de Souza, St. John Brebeur Parish secretary, toward a pilot project “blending” some 2021 census data purchased from Statistics Canada and the relevant findings from the ESCC’s 2019 Parish and Newcomer survey to serve the faith community. The next steps include a meeting with Fr. George Zacharias and the Parish Council to define the focus. Stay tuned for developments!



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