

2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT

**ENGLISH SPEAKING CATHOLIC
COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL CATHOLIQUE
D'EXPRESSION ANGLAISE**



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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VICE-PRESIDENT

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PAST PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

Helen Pellerin

TREASURER

Cristiane Tinmouth

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◆ John Donovan

◆ Nick Giampaolo

◆ David Hannon

◆ George Mack

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Maria G. Centoni

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

◆ Suzanne Brown

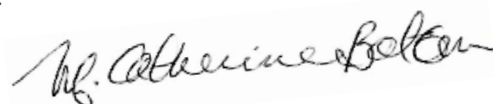
◆ Resigned during course of year

A WORD FROM THE **VICE-PRESIDENT**

This past year marked my last year as a Board Member and Vice-President of the ESCC. It turned out also to be a transformative year!

This journey started at the Annual General Meeting [AGM] of 2023, when we reached out to our membership to help us. It was and continues to be vital to the Board as a whole to hear the voices of those we serve and those who serve with us. Through Daniel Tessier-Young's - of BNP Goldie Canada - support and gentle prompting, we were able to crystallize what is important to the ESCC.

Thought-provoking, challenging and deeply considered conversations marked the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and Board meetings throughout 2024. We worked hard! Listening to each other and to the voices around us called for open hearts and open minds. At times overwhelmed with the scope of decisions to be made, with Maria's critical help, we nevertheless persevered and produced a set of values, a mission statement and priorities that will call us forward to the future. The journey towards change is by no means over! It is indeed a journey, but now with a clearer path and a set of guidelines to help us on our way.



CATHY BOLTON

OUTGOING VICE-PRESIDENT

RENEWED MISSION & VISION

MISSION

Guided by our faith and rooted in spirituality, the English Speaking Catholic Council enriches the quality of life and vibrancy of the community in which we live through collaborative outreach, advocacy and support programs.

VISION

A community where harmony, dignity and peace are found, where everyone feels connected, and lives are changed.

VALUES

- We are most effective when we work together and support each other.
- We are stronger because of our diversity, and we promote an environment that offers dignity and compassion in order to reach and empower all.
- We are committed to the transparent exchange of ideas and encourage respectful interaction so that all members of the community we serve are seen, heard, valued and empowered.
- We approach everything with passion and purpose and know our faith-based work is bigger than ourselves.

I have every confidence that the future will show the ESCC growing to “enrich the quality of life and vibrancy of the community in which we live”
- M. Catherine Bolton



TERRITORIAL & AFRICAN ANCESTRAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The English Speaking Catholic Council's work space is situated on the traditional territory of the Kanien'kehà:ka, which has long served as a meeting place among many First Nations including the Kanien'kehá:ka of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Huron/Wendat, Abenaki, and Anishinaabeg. Today, Tiohtià:ke/Montréal is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. The English Speaking Catholic Council respects that the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodian of the lands and waters on which we gather every day. We respect the continued connections with the past, present and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community.

AFRICAN ANCESTRAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The English Speaking Catholic Council recognizes those of us who came here involuntarily, particularly those brought to these lands as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade as well as the Underground Railroad. We honour and pay tribute to those ancestors of African origin and descent, and we recognize their contribution to our collective history and culture and whose contributions have enriched our community.

Taken by Archives des Soeurs Grises de Montreal. L272. Maison de Mere d'Yeuville

2024-2027 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Goal: Build awareness with public, partners, and supporters to expand our community network, foster collaboration and improve program design, accessibility and participation.

1. Communicate Our Value and Community Leadership

2. Increase Financial Sustainability & Affinity

Goal: Ensure we are financially sustainable and have the stability and budgeting flexibility to drive ESCC's organizational excellence and further our mission to provide high quality programs today and for years to come

Goal 1: Strengthen ESCC's organizational capacity and knowledge management to enable board members, volunteers, and employees to grow as they strive to achieve our vision, mission, and strategic objectives.

Goal 2: Optimize technology to enhance ESCC's program delivery and administrative functions.

3. Sustain Organizational Excellence

THE YEAR'S JOURNEY

The Council launched its **transformative strategic planning journey** in the context of its AGM. In July, after 42 years as tenants of the FCCS, the Council's offices were relocated to the Grey Nuns' Youville Motherhouse in Old Montreal - during a thunderstorm and tornado warning! Revisiting archived documents brought to light precious building blocks, such as the original Registry of ESCC Corporation members.

By Board consensus, a full review of the ESCC's structure became an integral part of the strategic planning journey. In November, the process of renewing our by-laws was set in motion. Research into best practices and use of benchmarks within the community sector impelled us forward, together with mapping out the steps to attend to acquired vulnerabilities in relation to our information systems and website.

The Council explored how to benefit from temporary hires, internship, and fieldwork placement possibilities. Notably, we connected with Concordia University's Experiential Learning & Co-operative Education specialists, their Beat the Odds [BTO] Program team, Université de Montréal's School of Library and Information Sciences, as well as applied for a Canada Summer Jobs 2024 contribution.

5 priority domains emerged clearly for the Council (Programs; Outreach; Governance; Capacity Building; Fund Development). They were coupled with 11 improvement areas, structuring the last steps of discernment to develop the 2024-2027 strategic roadmap.

2023

SUMMER

FALL

2024

JANUARY
&
FEBRUARY

MARCH

IN RELATION TO

REPRESENTATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

The ESCC signed a memorandum of understanding with the Black Community Resource Centre and the Office for English Pastoral Services in July 2023:

- To incentivize and support more capacity building, sharing of data purchase and analysis, knowledge mobilization and research,
- This initiative was shared with the Quebec Community Groups Network's [QCGN] Community Vitality Roundtables on Data and Representation in the fall.

With its colleagues from the QCGN, Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network and Community Health and Social Services Network [CHSSN], the ESCC took part in ScienceReach's September 2023 workshop *Connected Communities: Harnessing Innovative Practices for Greater Impact*.

The ESCC then engaged in the cocreation of a peer-led workshop on the retention of human resources, with the QCGN's Organizational and Network Health roundtable

We engaged 3 candidates with a capacity to speak to black community realities, diversity-equity-inclusivity-accessibility initiatives in faith-based activities, and current ethical issues (e.g., as related to personhood, compassion, artificial intelligence, technology and disability, ageing, and death) for a necessary board renewal. We committed to deepening succession and contingency planning.

IN RELATION TO

NEWCOMERS & ASYLUM SEEKERS

The ESCC purchased Statistics Canada 2021 census data for the Montreal Census Metropolitan Area [CMA], for collaborative analysis and mapping, to share with parishes and support their stewardship. A pilot project blending in the ESCC's 2019 Parish Newcomer Survey is taking shape.

The ESCC liaised with the Quebec and Nunavut Region Representative of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages toward jointly organizing a workshop on language rights, responsibilities, and resources.

The ESCC held meetings with the Welcome Collective, Le Pont - Accueillir, protéger, promouvoir et intégrer, Jesus Light of the World Parish, Catholic Action Montreal and the Diocesan Social Action Office. We led a January 2024 meeting with all parties with the goal of co-designing a pilot project.



Taken by Anne Sophie Ross & Jean-François Bigras

IN RELATION TO



SENIORS

The ESCC upheld its investments toward supporting Seniors Action Quebec's stewardship of the One Voice Coalition, partaking in 100% (6/6) of the latter's 2023-2024 meetings and retreat days for its becoming.

With the CHSSN's lead, we helped create a reliable resource-driven mapping application of services offered in the Greater Montreal Area. 2021 Census data is integrated, enabling an understanding of the cities'/boroughs' demographics and their relative wealth in senior wellness resources.

- The ESCC introduced Diocesan resource persons to CHSSN leadership, with a view to enrich the mapping with parish- and faith-based services.

The ESCC began relationship building with palliative care resources.

YOUTH

The ESCC found that the Sacred Heart School's 2021-2026 Strategic Plan, and Loyola High School's Strategic Initiatives may have room for its contributions.

While continuing to develop a working relationship with McGill's Newman Centre, we reached out to both high school leaders and the Dean of Pedagogical Development & Innovation at John Abbott College.

We completed all prerequisite steps with Concordia University's BTO Internship Program.

We connected with Montreal's YES Employment and Entrepreneurship, Youth for Youth and Diocesan resource persons to enable youth recruitment and mobilization for the co-design of pilot projects.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

A

Association of Catholic Retired Administrators (ACRA)

www.acracan.org

Adult Religious Education Services

www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)

www.acn-canada.org

Almage Senior Community Centre

www.almage.org

Ancient Order of Hibernians

www.aoh-montreal.com

Auberge Madeleine

www.aubergemadeleine.org

B

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Foundation

www.batshawfoundation.ca

Benedict Labre House

www.benedictlabre.org

C

Camp Kinkora

www.campkinkora.com

Canadian Centre for Ecumenism

www.oikoumene.ca

Catholic Action Montreal (CAM)

www.catholicaction.ca

Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO)

Catholic Times Montreal Inc. (archives)

Catholic Women's League of Canada

Collective Community Services (CCS)

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
Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada (clo-ocol.gc.ca)

Communion and Liberation (En Route Foundation)

www.ca.en.clonline.org

Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN)

www.chssn.org

Concordia University Catholic Student Association (CUCSA)

www.facebook.com/ConcordiaCatholicStudents

Consensus Mediation Centre (CMC)

www.consensusmediation.org

Couples for Christ (CFC)

[CFC Canada - Catholic Marriage and Family Ministry \(couplesforchrist.ca\)](http://CFC Canada - Catholic Marriage and Family Ministry (couplesforchrist.ca))

D

Dans La Rue (Le Bon Dieu)

www.danslarue.org

Department of Theological Studies, Concordia University

<https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/theology.html>

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada

www.devop.org

Diocesan Camping Association (DCA)

www.dcakinkora.org

DCA - Camp Caritas

www.campcaritas.ca

DCA - DAYLIGHT CAMP

www.kinkoradlc.com

DCA - Diocesan Family Camp

www.dfckinkora.org

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

DCA: Visions Camp
www.visionscamp.ca

DCA: Youth in Action Camp
www.youthinactioncamp.com

Diocesan Centre for Marriage, Life and Family (DCMLF)
[Diocesan Centre for Marriage Life and Family | Diocese of Montreal \(diocesemontreal.org\)](http://Diocesan Centre for Marriage Life and Family | Diocese of Montreal (diocesemontreal.org))

Diocesan Liturgy Services

Diocesan microsite for a Synodal Church
[Home \(diocesemontreal.org\)](http://Home (diocesemontreal.org))

Diocesan Office for Faith Education
www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services-resources/faith-education.html

Diocesan Priesthood Guild of Montreal (DPG)

Diocesan Social Action Ministry Office

Diocesan Youth Ministry Office (microsite)
[About - Mission Jeunesse Montréal \(diocesemontreal.org\)](http://About - Mission Jeunesse Montréal (diocesemontreal.org))

DCMLF: Marriage Preparation

DCMLF: Separated and Divorced Catholics

Divine Renovation Ministry
www.divinerenovation.org

Don Bosco Mission Office
www.dbmo.ca

E
Executives Available
www.ea-cd.ca

F
Family Matters / Workshops
www.letstalkaboutlove.ca

Family Retreat Centre (Dominus Vobiscum: Catholic Family Foundation)
www.dominusvobiscum.ca

Father Dowd Foundation
Father Dowd Foundation

Foundation of Catholic Community Services Inc.
www.fccsmontreal.org

I
Ignatian Spirituality Centre of Montreal
www.ignatiancentremtl.ca

Institute For Christian Communities

K

Knights of Columbus

L

L'Abri en Ville
www.labrienville.org

L'Arche Montreal Inc.
www.larche-montreal.org

Legion of Mary – Montreal Curia

Logifem Inc.
www.logifem.org

Loyola Alumni Founding Chapter
www.concordia.ca/alumni-friends

Loyola High School
www.loyola.ca

Loyola High School Alumni and Associates
www.loyola.ca

Loyola High School Foundation
www.loyola.ca

M

MEDITATIO – The Canadian Christian Meditation Community
www.wccm-canada.ca

MOMENTUM: Catholic Single Mothers
www.momentummothers.org

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Montreal Catholic Challenge
Movement
join.montrealchallenge.ca/today

Montreal Directed Retreats
www.montrealretreats.org

Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation

N

Nazareth Community – Nazareth
House, Anne's House & John's House
www.nazarethcommunity.com

Newman Association of Montreal Inc.
www.newmancentre.org

Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel
www.marguerite-bourgeoys.com

Notre Dame de Sion Elementary
School (Bilingual)
www.ebnds.ca

O

Office for English Pastoral Services
(O.E.P.S.)
www.diocesemontreal.org/en

P

Pastoral Home Care Services
(S.A.S.M.A.D. – English Sector)
[www.Facebook.com/pastoralhomecare
services](http://www.Facebook.com/pastoralhomecare/services)

Peace, Freedom and Healing Ministry
www.fatherlou.com

Pillars Trust Fund Inc.
www.pillarstrust.org

Q

Quebec Community Groups Network
www.qcgn.ca

Quebec Life Coalition
www.cqv.qc.ca

R

Residence Projet Chance Inc.

Residence Robert Dobie (former
Holy Cross Residence)

S

Sacred Heart School of Montreal
www.sacredheart.qc.ca

Saint Antoine 50+ Community
Centre

Salesian Youth Centre (Don Bosco
Youth Leadership Centre)
www.dbylc.com

Social Justice Connection
www.sjc-cjs.org

St. Mary's Hospital Foundation
www.stmaryshospitalfoundation.ca

St. Patrick Development Foundation
(St. Patrick Square)
www.spsquare.ca

St. Patrick's Society of Montreal
www.spsmtl.com

T

Teresa Dellar Palliative Care
Residence
www.residencesoinspalliatifs.ca

The Alpha Course

The Priory School
www.priory.qc.ca

The Teapot 50-Plus Centre – Lachine
Senior Citizens
www.theteapot.org

Theologia Book Ministry
www.theologia.ca

Thomas More Institute
www.thomasmore.qc.ca

U

United Irish Societies of Montreal Inc.
www.montrealirishparade.com

V

Villa Maria Foundation

Villa Maria High School
www.villamaria.qc.ca

W

West Island Citizen Advocacy
www.volunteerwica.com

Worldwide Marriage Encounter (ME)
www.wwme.org



Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien

Department of Canadian Heritage



Father Dowd Foundation

OUR FUNDERS

MONTREAL ST. PATRICK'S FOUNDATION

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