



2016-17

ANNUAL REPORT



ESCC



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Honorary Chairman

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**Staff**

Anna Farrow  
Executive Director

Suzanne Brown  
Executive Assistant

\* Resigned † Deceased

**Message from the President**

It is my great pleasure to present the ESCC's Annual Report for 2016-2017. As you can see from our report on our activities, we have continued to sponsor programs, speakers and activities for English-speaking Catholics in the Greater Montreal area.

Once again the board organized the Catholic Community Rally held in conjunction with the Parish Vitality Conference organized by the Office for English Pastoral Services of the Archdiocese of Montreal.

I had the privilege of presenting the Bishop Crowley Memorial Award on behalf of the Council to Fr John Baxter. Fr Baxter was honoured for his work providing leadership training for the youth of the community.

I also had the pleasure of attending a workshop on Isolated Seniors which was sponsored by the ESCC in collaboration with the Father Dowd Foundation. It provided me with insight into the problems of isolated seniors and what is being done to help seniors and their caregivers and I was able to see first-hand the importance of the Board providing opportunities like this for the English speaking community.

The Board, Advisory and staff of the Council were very saddened to learn of the passing of Patrick Rourke on March 18, 2017. Pat was a founding member of the English Speaking Catholic Council and served as the first president. He shall be missed not only by the Board but also by the larger community as he was involved in many of its aspects.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Executive Director, Anna Farrow and our Executive Assistant, Suzanne Brown for all that they do for the Council. It has been a pleasure working with them this past year and with their expertise and knowledge, I have gained a whole new perspective on the importance of the ESCC and the work that we do.

**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.



**Planning for the Future**

In the autumn of 2016, the Council undertook a renewal of the Strategic Plan of the ESCC. After a process of consultation with the membership and stakeholders, and a half-day session with Board members, former Board members and the Advisory Committee, the Board recommitted to the basic considerations and objectives of the existing plan, with some small modifications to the wording of the "Vision" statement. As a result of that process, the Council has also recommitted to certain strategic actions which include steps to raise the profile of the Council amongst the broader community as well as steps to enhance Board engagement. The Council appreciated the help and collaboration of The Centre for Community Organizations (COCO) for their help in the organization and animation of our strategic planning process.

**Strategic Priorities 2016-17**

1. Provide research and plan activities to improve the quality of life for English-speaking seniors. Address social isolationism 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 minority-language community of Quebec.
5. Engage with community leaders and government representatives on end of life issues.



## Advocating & Networking

### Seniors

The Council hosted two workshops in 2016 which brought together community organizations and individuals who work amongst English-speaking seniors in order to discuss the issue of senior isolation. The Council sought out speakers who had initiated projects which tackled this topical problem in both innovative and effective ways. In April 2016, Elise Campeau, a social worker with the St. Antoine 50+ Senior's Centre and Cathy Macauley of SASMAD, spoke to a group of 25 of their differing methods of identifying and assisting seniors in need. Participants then had an opportunity to network and share. In November 2016, in collaboration with Father Dowd Foundation, the Council co-hosted a workshop which presented a new initiative of one of our partners, Seniors Action Quebec, which has been designed to enable volunteers to reach out to and assist isolated seniors. This was a well-attended event which brought together seniors, volunteers, community organizers, and representatives of the Pastoral Home Care team of the Archdiocese.

### The Changing Face of English-Speaking Catholic Quebec

The ESCC holds a privileged position amongst the organizations which represent and support the minority language community of Quebec. It has long been acknowledged that the face of English-speaking Quebec is changing. Of the newcomers and immigrants that are arriving in Montreal, 19% have English as their First Official Language Spoken (FOLS). The English-speaking parishes of Montreal, Laval and

the South Shore are de facto landing pads for many of these newcomers and have a unique role to play in their integration to Quebec society. The Council is aware of this, as well as of the part that the Council can play in the interface between government, organizations and parishes. The past year has seen the Council engaged on this issue. For example, the Council was invited to help facilitate a panel discussion, organized by the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) and funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, at a pre-conference to the Metropolis Conference. This pre-conference was held in March 2017. The title of the session was, "Faith-Based Organizations as Integrating Factors for Newcomers." The Executive Director was moderator, and Fr. Francis McKee of Jesus Light of the World Parish in Pierrefonds, Norbert Piché, Country Director of Jesuit Refugee Services and member of St. Monica's Parish, and Alessandra Santopadre of the Archdiocese were the scheduled panelists.

The Council was also represented by the Executive Director in January 2017 at a meeting in Ottawa with the IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada). The purpose of the meeting was to increase understanding of the activities the IRCC undertakes in Quebec and to inform the IRCC of the breadth of engagement which our community has with newcomers and immigrants.

In the upcoming year, the Council will continue to explore the areas where it can be effective as regards the issues relevant to English-speaking newcomers to Quebec.

## A Vibrant Community

### Catholic Community Rally

For nearly 20 years, between 1983 and 2004, English-speaking Catholics in Montreal were hosted by the ESCC at the Catholic Community Rally, with an additional event in 2014 after a ten year hiatus. Two years later, in November 2016, in conjunction with the Parish Vitality Conference, the ESCC set about to host an event in which both well-established organizations and small, dynamic and new organizations would have the ability to highlight and explain their mission and mandate to the community. The latest Rally showed an 18% increase over the 2014 number of organizations represented, and over 250 people came to browse the kiosks, talk to the participants and to network. 95% of kiosk participants who responded to a survey rated the event as either "excellent" or "very good." The Council is proud to have been the host of such an event and would like to continue the tradition in 2018!

### Celebrating our Leaders

In an effort to showcase the people and organizations which have made a positive contribution to the life of English-speaking Catholics in Montreal, the Council established the Bishop Crowley Memorial Award (formerly the Bishop Crowley Award). The award was designed specifically to draw attention to those who have contributed to the community on a volunteer basis and who have gone above and beyond in their contribution of time, talent and enthusiasm. The recipient this year was Fr. John Baxter, Parochial Administrator at Holy Family Parish, who was honored particularly for his role in the establishment of the parish and camp-based leadership program for boys of which he has been the driving force since 1965.

### Public lecture with Thomas Cardinal Collins

To celebrate 35 years of service to the community, the Council held a public lecture in conjunction with its Annual General meeting in June 2016. Some 100 people attended and heard Cardinal Collins speak to the role and responsibilities of faithful Catholics in a challenging public context.



## Focus on Education Reform

This past year has seen coverage and public debate over several proposed changes to school curricula. The majority of the debate has centered on the History curriculum. Organizations such as the QCGN and the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA) have been very vocal in their critique. One of their principle objections is that the proposed curriculum effectively ignores both the struggles and contributions of Quebec's minority communities as well as that of the Anglophone community.

But there are other changes afoot in Quebec schools. Beginning in 2015, the Ministry of Education undertook a pilot program of sexual education in 19 schools throughout the province. This is neither a curriculum nor a discreet course, but a series of themes which are to be taught in all classes from Kindergarten through Grade 11. The Board invited a couple of speakers to a meeting so that the Council might be better informed. As a result of the discussions, the Council identified a number of concerns regarding the new program, and undertook to communicate these to the Minister. The ESCC, in its actions in the past, including briefs on the topic of linguistic school boards as well as the Ethics and Religious Culture course, has always strongly defended the rights of parents to have free choice of religious education for their children in accordance with their religious convictions and personal conscience. The new sex education program as proposed is clearly not just a course which educates children in the scientific information relevant to sexual education, but it is rather an education in values, norms, and, ultimately, in what it means to be human. This program presents one view of human sexuality as if it should be normative, and is, in fact, prejudicial to opinions other than those as presented in the government guidelines. Curiously, in the QFHSA Newsletter of Spring 2017, when setting out their points of concern with the History curriculum noted that, "A curriculum that seeks to indoctrinate students with a simplistic ideologically driven narrative is an insult to the intelligence of students and a disservice to society as a whole." The Council would make the same point in reference to the new sexual education program. The Council drafted and sent a letter to the Minister of Education noting our concerns. The Minister has announced that the roll-out of the program to all schools in the province has been delayed until September 2018. The ESCC will continue to monitor developments on this issue and place pressure on the Ministry.

## Community Resources

ACRA  
Association of Catholic Retired Administrators  
[www.acracan.org](http://www.acracan.org)

Adult Religious Education Services  
[www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services](http://www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services)

Aid to the Church in Need  
[www.acn-aed-ca.org](http://www.acn-aed-ca.org)

Almage Senior Community Centre  
[www.almage.org](http://www.almage.org)

Ancient Order of Hibernians  
[www.aoh-montreal.com](http://www.aoh-montreal.com)

Auberge Madeleine  
[www.aubergemadeleine.org](http://www.aubergemadeleine.org)

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres  
CIUSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montreal  
[www.ciuss-ouestmtl.gouv.qc.ca/en/home/](http://www.ciuss-ouestmtl.gouv.qc.ca/en/home/)

Benedict Labre House  
[www.benedictlabre.org](http://www.benedictlabre.org)

Bon Dieu Dans La Rue (Le)  
[www.danslarue.org](http://www.danslarue.org)

Camp Caritas  
[www.campcaritas.ca](http://www.campcaritas.ca)

Camp Kinkora  
[www.campkinkora.com](http://www.campkinkora.com)

Canadian Centre for Ecumenism  
[www.oikoumene.ca](http://www.oikoumene.ca)

Catholic Action Montreal  
[www.catholicaction.ca](http://www.catholicaction.ca)

Catholic Charismatic Services of Montreal

Catholic Women's League of Canada

CCS – Collective Community Services  
[www.ccs-montreal.org](http://www.ccs-montreal.org)

Centre for Reproductive Loss  
[www.crl-rho.org](http://www.crl-rho.org)

Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Montreal

Citizen Advocacy Montreal  
[www.parrainagemontreal.org](http://www.parrainagemontreal.org)

City House Foundation  
[www.sacredheart.qc.ca](http://www.sacredheart.qc.ca)

Commissioner of Official Languages

Communion and Liberation  
[www.ca.en.clonline.ca](http://www.ca.en.clonline.ca)

Community Health and Social Services Network  
[www.chssn.org](http://www.chssn.org)

Concordia University Catholic Student Association (CUCSA)  
[www.facebook.com/cucsa](http://www.facebook.com/cucsa)

Consensus Mediation Centre (CMC)  
[www.consensusmediation.org](http://www.consensusmediation.org)

Couples for Christ (CFC)

Crib and Cross Franciscan Ministries  
[www.cribandcross.org](http://www.cribandcross.org)

Department of Theological Studies,  
Concordia University  
<https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/theology.html>

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada  
[www.dev.p.org](http://www.dev.p.org)

Diocesan Camping Association (DCA)

Diocesan Family Camp  
[www.dfc-kinkora.ca](http://www.dfc-kinkora.ca)

Diocesan Liturgy Camp  
[www.campdlc.com](http://www.campdlc.com)

Diocesan Liturgy Services  
[www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services-resources/liturgy.html](http://www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services-resources/liturgy.html)

Diocesan Office for Faith Education  
[www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services-resources/faith-education.html](http://www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services-resources/faith-education.html)

Diocesan Priesthood Guild of Montreal (DPG)

Diocesan Visions Camp  
[www.visionscamp.ca](http://www.visionscamp.ca)

Diocesan Vocations Office

Diocesan Youth Ministry Office  
[www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services-resources/youth-ministry.html](http://www.diocesemontreal.org/en/services-resources/youth-ministry.html)

Don Bosco Mission Office  
[www.dbmo.ca](http://www.dbmo.ca)

En Route Foundation  
[www.ca.en.clonline.org](http://www.ca.en.clonline.org)

Executives Available

Family Matters / The Marriage Workshop  
[www.letstalkaboutlove.ca](http://www.letstalkaboutlove.ca)

Family Retreat Centre (Dominus Vobiscum)  
[newmancentre.org/dominusvobiscumca/wp/](http://newmancentre.org/dominusvobiscumca/wp/)

Father Dowd Foundation

Father Dowd Residence

Father Dowd Residence Auxiliary

Foundation of Catholic Community Services Inc.  
[www.fccsmontreal.org](http://www.fccsmontreal.org)

Holy Cross Residence

Ignatian Spirituality Centre of Montreal  
[www.ignatiantremtl.ca](http://www.ignatiantremtl.ca)

Institute For Christian Communities

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office (JPIC)  
[www.jp-pic-visitation.org](http://www.jp-pic-visitation.org)

The Knights of Columbus

L'Abri en Ville  
[www.labrienville.ca](http://www.labrienville.ca)

L'Arche Montreal Inc.  
[www.larche-montreal.org](http://www.larche-montreal.org)

Legion of Mary – Montreal Curia

Logifem Inc.  
[www.logifem.org](http://www.logifem.org)

Loyola Alumni Founding Chapter  
[www.concordia.ca/alumni-friends](http://www.concordia.ca/alumni-friends)

Loyola High School  
[www.loyola.ca](http://www.loyola.ca)

Loyola High School Alumni and Associates  
[www.loyola.ca](http://www.loyola.ca)

Loyola High School Foundation  
[www.loyola.ca](http://www.loyola.ca)

Marguerite Bourgeoys Museum and Chapel  
[www.marguerite-bourgeoys.com](http://www.marguerite-bourgeoys.com)

Marriage Preparation (Diocesan)

MECUM Contemplative Christian Community

MEDITATIO  
The Canadian Christian Meditation Community  
[www.wccm-canada.ca](http://www.wccm-canada.ca)

Montreal Catholic Counselling Referral Service

Montreal Challenge Movement  
[www.montrealchallenge.ca](http://www.montrealchallenge.ca)

Montreal Directed Retreats  
[www.montrealretreats.org](http://www.montrealretreats.org)

Montreal English Catholic Cursillo Movement

Montreal Gingras-Lindsay Rehabilitation Institute  
[www.irglm.qc.ca](http://www.irglm.qc.ca)

Montreal Pro-Life  
[www.prolifemtl.org](http://www.prolifemtl.org)

Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation

Nazareth Community  
Nazareth House & Anne's House  
[www.maison-nazareth-house.com](http://www.maison-nazareth-house.com)

Newman Association of Montreal Inc.  
[www.newmancentre.org](http://www.newmancentre.org)

Notre Dame de Sion Elementary School (Bilingual)  
[www.ebnds.ca](http://www.ebnds.ca)

Office for English Pastoral Services

Pastoral Home Care Services (S.A.S.M.A.D. – English Sector) (Diocesan)  
[Facebook.com/pastoralhomecareservices](https://www.facebook.com/pastoralhomecareservices)

Peace, Freedom and Healing Ministry  
[www.fatherlou.com](http://www.fatherlou.com)

Pillars Trust Fund Inc.  
[www.pillarstrust.org](http://www.pillarstrust.org)

Quebec Community Groups Network  
[www.qcgn.ca](http://www.qcgn.ca)

Residence Projet Chance Inc.  
[Projet.chance.montreal@gmail.com](mailto:Projet.chance.montreal@gmail.com)

Sacred Heart School of Montreal  
[www.sacredheart.qc.ca](http://www.sacredheart.qc.ca)

Saint Antoine 50+ Community Centre

Salesian Youth Centre  
(Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre)  
[www.dylc.com](http://www.dylc.com)

Separated and Divorced Catholics

Social Action Ministry Office (Diocesan)

Social Justice Connection  
[www.sjc-cjs.org](http://www.sjc-cjs.org)

St. Margaret Residence

St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary

St. Mary's Hospital Centre  
[www.smhc.qc.ca](http://www.smhc.qc.ca)

St. Mary's Hospital Foundation  
[Foundation.stmary@sss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:Foundation.stmary@sss.gouv.qc.ca)

St. Patrick Development Foundation  
(St. Patrick Square)  
[www.spsquare.ca](http://www.spsquare.ca)

St. Patrick's Society of Montreal  
[www.spsmtl.com](http://www.spsmtl.com)

The Alpha Course

The Priory School  
[www.priory.qc.ca](http://www.priory.qc.ca)

The Teapot 50 Plus Centre  
Lachine Senior Citizens  
[www.theteapot.org](http://www.theteapot.org)

Theologia Book Ministry  
[www.theologia.ca](http://www.theologia.ca)

Thomas More Institute  
[www.thomasmore.qc.ca](http://www.thomasmore.qc.ca)

UNITAS  
[www.unitas-meditation.com](http://www.unitas-meditation.com)

United Irish Societies of Montreal Inc.  
[www.montrealirishparade.com](http://www.montrealirishparade.com)

Villa Maria Foundation

Vila Maria High School  
[www.villamaria.qc.ca](http://www.villamaria.qc.ca)

West Island Citizen Advocacy  
[www.volunteerwica.com](http://www.volunteerwica.com)

Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME)  
[www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org)



Senior Isolation Workshop



Goldbloom 2016



Metropolis Pre-Forum

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Pillars Trust Fund



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