

CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF NEW BRUNSWICK

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2015 – MARCH 31, 2016

The Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick has been very active over the past year in support of Catholic healthcare within our jurisdiction. There were many issues placed before the Board and Committees during the year the most pressing again being the Supreme Court decision regarding Physician Assisted Death.

RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL CARE

As in the past, the Association continued the development of strong relations with the Provincial Government. The province continues to fund the provincial committee in the amount of \$50,000.00 per year. The Committee, originally founded by the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick, continues to work under the name of the New Brunswick Spiritual Health Network. The Annual Report of this group is attached. Rick Benson of Saint Joseph's Hospital in Saint John is the Chairperson of this Network.

There has been no further development regarding the request made to the provincial government to work with the Association to develop a statue and/or sculpture recognizing the contribution of the Sisters of the province in the areas of health, education and social service. This issue will continue to be placed on the agenda of future meetings. A new committee was appointed by the CHANB Board to work on this project, however, the committee has not met to date.

EDUCATION

The Education Committee under the chairperson, Vicky Knight, met during the year as required mainly to plan for this conference. Other issues discussed were the scholarship program and the Values Integration Assessment program. It is noted that eight scholarships in honor of the Sisters are awarded each year in the amount of \$1,000.00 each. The Scholarships are offered to students who have completed their first year of studies in a health related field and renewable for four years. The scholarships are equally shared between Anglophone and Francophone students. There is a selection committee in place for each group to award these scholarships, it is no easy task as the response is excellent. The Anglophone scholarship in 2015 was

awarded to Nicole Johnston of Saint John, and the Francophone scholarship was awarded to Olivier Savoie of Beresford.

The Catholic Leadership program continues to operate at capacity. The English program will be offered in 2016-17 and has a waiting list.

Support for the CHAC Annual Conference was again evident this year with a good attendance.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The strategic plan developed in 2014 continues to be rolled out. The Board of Directors developed a number of themes for a three to five year period. The theme presently being developed is communication. Over the coming months you can look forward to a greater awareness of the Association through social media, etc.

During the past year, the By-Laws review committee met on several occasions to completely revise the CHANB By-Laws. The final proposed By-Laws were recommended to the Board for their recommendation and approval to the General Assembly in September 2016.

ADVOCACY

There were several areas which required involvement of the CHANB. The first being the Supreme Court Decision on Physician Assisted Dying. The CHAB worked hand in hand with Catholic Health International and the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada. Meetings were held nationally through those organizations with the Canadian Conference of Bishops and other provincial organizations. Locally, meetings were held with the four Bishops in New Brunswick to assist them in understanding the plan being developed by the catholic health care organizations in Canada. We make every effort to keep the Bishops informed and communicate with all our facilities regarding policy development, etc. CHANB prepared a statement in harmony with CHI and the other organizations and distributed it to all our facilities including the two Region Health Authorities.

The provincial government over the past few months made a decision to place the debts and assets of the provincial nursing homes on the books of the province. The CHANB in partnership with Catholic Health International and the New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes immediately opposed this decision. While this matter has not been finalized because it is still in the courts, we have been assured by the minister directly that there is no intention to acquire the assets. We will continue to monitor this situation.

There remains the issue of a recommendation by the Regional Health Authorities to the Provincial Government to “take over” the operation of the nursing homes and

place them under the health authorities. This is still a hot issue and we will continue to monitor this situation as well.

Recommendations for appointments to the Horizon Health Network and Vitalité Network were made to the Minister of Health as per the *Agreement*. Concern was expressed during the year regarding restructuring taking place in Vitalité Health Network which, at first, conflicted with the terms of the *Agreement*. We have been assured that Vitalité supports and will honor the *Agreement*.

The President and Executive Director attended the Provincial Associations meeting in Toronto in December. This annual meeting provides an opportunity to discuss items of mutual concern across the country.

FINANCIAL

The Association continues to operate in a prudent fiscal manner producing a small surplus each year. The Association works in partnership with Catholic Health International to fund many educational opportunities provided to our membership.

THANK YOU

A special thank you to all CHANB members, volunteers and others for your continued support in these rather difficult times. A very special thank you to the Board of Directors for their dedication, encouragement and support.

Francis Goguen
Chairperson

Robert B. Stewart
Executive Director

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
TO THE
CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick, it is my pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to all participants, speakers and guests to this 29th annual meeting and conference of the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick.

The theme for this year's conference *Dignity and Respect: Palliative Care* was generated by the discussion, anxiety, and uncertainty caused by the Supreme Court ruling on Physician Assisted Death. The speakers at the conference this year will discuss this decision and the alternatives available in keeping with the dignity and respect for life. I anticipate that much discussion will take place over the next day, which, hopefully, will assist health care workers and volunteers deal with this ethical dilemma enabling them to uphold the highest standards of treating people with respect, dignity and compassion.

We again this year compliment the Education committee for their dedication and hard work in the preparation of this conference. We also express our gratitude and thanks to the two Region Health Authorities for their support and assistance.

To the Management and Staff of the Rodd Miramichi River Hotel we say thank you.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of CHANB, I wish you success in your deliberations and a conference enriched by positive experience and knowledge. Meeting colleagues who share our values is always an encouragement to continue the healing ministry of the Church. At this time in our history, it is extremely important that we recognize and make every effort to enhance this important ministry.

Let's have an enriching and invigorating conference. Let's find opportunities to interact with our colleagues from across New Brunswick while at the same time, enjoy our time here in Miramichi.

Sincerely,

Francis Goguen,
President

Board of Directors



Francis Goguen
President



Pascal Chisholm
Past President



Jean- Marc Martin
Vice-President



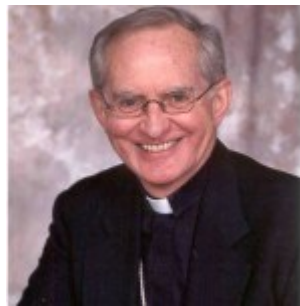
Fernand Rioux
Treasurer



Dr. Robert Stewart
Executive Director



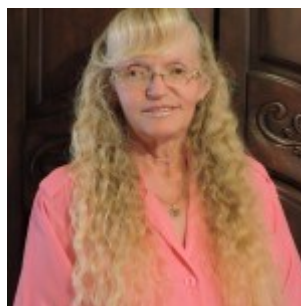
Lisa Guerrette-Daigle
Secretary



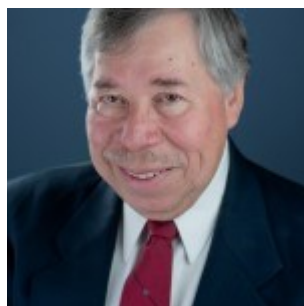
Bishop Robert Harris
Director



Vicky Knight
Director



Marthe Léger
Director



Alex Dedam
Director



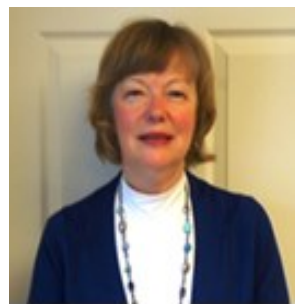
David Levangie
Director



Heather Oakley
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Joy VanTassel
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Karen O'Regan
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