



CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF NEW BRUNSWICK

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2014 – MARCH 31, 2015

The Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick has been active during 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 being the abortion issue in the province of New Brunswick and the Supreme Court decision regarding Physician Assisted suicide.

RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL CARE

The Association continues its work in the development of greater relations with the province of New Brunswick in terms of Religious and Spiritual Care. As mentioned in previous reports, the province agreed to continue to fund a provincial committee composed of Region Health Authorities and the CHANB which was established by CHANB a number of years ago and provides \$50,000.00 per year for the operation of the committee. This committee, the NB Spiritual Health Network, has been meeting on a regular basis and continues to plan for future development and this year the Chairperson, Rick Benson advises that the Network is recommending that the funds be used for further Clinical Pastoral Education, some additional clinical training in conjunction with University Laval, a workshop for community clergy on spiritual care in emergency situations, mindfulness training and some funds to further the Network's strategic plan and priorities including research. The Network full report is attached.

The Francophone Health Authority (Vitalité), has a full time priest responsible for education in Religious and Spiritual Care throughout the Authority and he has been working closely with Catholic Health International to expand this service.

Some time ago a request was 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. There has been consultation with the latest government. No action to date. The plan is to have the finished product placed in the provincial capital. Planning continues.

EDUCATION

The education committee met during the year to review such items as our scholarship program, the Values Integration program, and more particularly to plan for our Annual Conference. The committee, under the Chairperson Vicky Knight makes every effort to develop a theme for the conference that is most practical and relevant to the environment in which we operate. This year's theme "*Family Focused Care – Mind, Body and Spirit*" is very timely. Our congratulations to the committee for their excellent work.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In 2014, the Board of Directors of the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick completed a two day Strategic Planning Retreat at the Riverside Resort north of Fredericton. The board completed a SWAT analysis and then developed a number of themes for the next three to five years. These include: communication, education, advocacy, membership, resources, succession planning, partnerships, values/heritage and politics/government. A number of goals and objectives were established during the process. This plan will be rolled out over the coming months.

ADVOCACY

The Association, prior to the provincial election in the past year, prepared and distributed an election information package for all candidates outline our position on a number of items.

The newly elected government of New Brunswick campaigned on easier access to abortion. Shortly after the election the government announced a new policy permitting this to happen with fewer rules/barriers. CHANB together with the Sponsor Catholic Health International invoked the Agreement with the province

and received confirmation that this procedure would not be done in any Catholic facility.

The Supreme Court of Canada released it's ruling during the year on Physician Assisted suicide. CHANB is working very closely with the Sponsor (CHI) and the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (CHAC) in developing a "Physician Assisted Suicide Strategy Work Plan". CHANB has met with the provincial Bishops to brief them on the actions to date by the various Catholic organizations. There is continued dialogue with the Bishops on this subject.

A new position paper is expect with a matter of days from the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada. This document will be shared with all facilities and church organizations.

The provincial government continues to look at opportunities to reduce spending, particularly in health care. There has been a rumour circulating that there is a proposed merger of Long Term Care (Nursing Homes) with the Region Health Authorities. The Association continues to monitor this very closely and is working with the New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes on this file. The issue of the closure of smaller hospitals and repurposing them into nursing homes is also being monitored.

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 the many educational opportunities provided to our membership.

THANK YOU

A special thank you to all CHANB members, volunteers and other for your continues support in these trying 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 28th annual meeting and conference of the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick.

The theme of this year's conference "***Family Focused Care – Mind, Body and Spirit***" is most appropriate given the environment in which we are working. This past year has been and continues to be challenging for care givers in light of the Supreme Court ruling on Physician Assisted Suicide. This decision of the court has created major concerns within all of the health care community from physicians to facilities to workers within those facilities, in particular Catholic facilities. Hopefully the sessions over the next 24 hours will provide us with an opportunity to reflect more directly on the practical approach to this ethical dilemma calling us to maintain the highest possible ethical standards treating people with respect, dignity and compassion.

This year's annual meeting and conference has been organized by the Education Committee of the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick. We are extremely pleased to be partnered with Catholic facilities and the two Regional Health Authorities in presenting our highly successful annual conferences and this year will be no exception.

To the Management and Staff of the Rodd Miramichi River Hotel we say thank you. To the Education Committee and the Planning Group for your dedication and assistance in planning and supporting our conference, our sincere thanks.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of CHANB, I wish you success in you deliberations, and a conference enriched by positive experience and knowledge. Meeting working 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. Let's 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



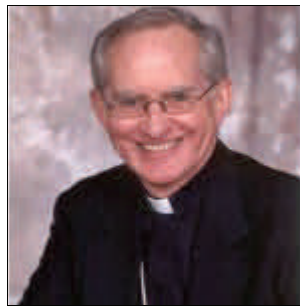
Fernand Rioux
Treasurer



Dr. Robert Stewart
Executive Director



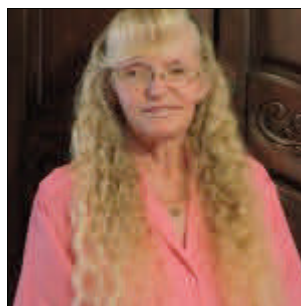
Lisa Guerrette-Daigle
Secretary



Bishop Robert Harris
Director



Vicky Knight
Director



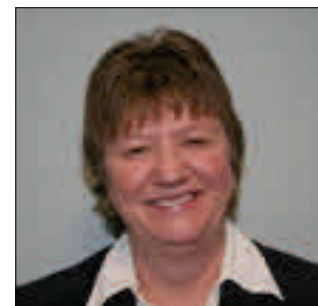
Marthe Léger
Director



Alex Dedam
Director



David Levangie
Director



Heather Oakley
Director



Joy Van Tassell
Director