

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF NEW BRUNSWICK. 2016- 2017

INTRODUCTION:

The Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick was formed in 1986 and in cooperation with Catholic Health International acts as a voice for Christian healthcare in the Atlantic area in the Catholic tradition.

For the past thirty one (31) years, this mission has been promoted with the past year being no exception.

The Board of Directors met as required and responded to the various committee work carried out through a dedicated group of volunteers.

The following is a summary of activities:

ETHICS

The dominant issue in the province and across Canada continued to be the medically assisted death (Medical Aid in Dying) as a result of the Supreme Court of Canada decision in 2015. Policies and procedures were developed in several of our CHANB facilities to help staff explain to patients/residents and their families the process for requests. On a national level the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (CHAC) continues to support and encourage dialogue on this issue. The CHAC sponsored two gatherings of the CHAC Ethicists in the past year specifically focused on medically assisted death. This provided an opportunity for Ethicists across Canada to discuss MAID and share possible solutions to the many emerging issues. This year Hazel Markwell joined the staff of CHAC as the Ethics and Policy advisor. Dr. Markwell has been hired as a consultant to Catholic Health International and will therefore be available for consults for CHANB facilities.

We are very pleased to advise that Sr. Nuala Kenny, S.C., O.C., M.D., F.R.C.P.(C) recently released a new book entitled *Rediscovering The Art of Dying: How Jesus' Experience and Our Stories Reveal a New Vision of Compassionate Care* (2018) through Novalis Press.

RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL CARE

The New Brunswick Spiritual Health Network, founded by CHANB, continues to meet on a regular basis. There has been a significant turn over in the staff who are responsible for spiritual and religious care in Horizon and Vitalité Health Networks this past year so the committee make up has changed. The Network continues to encourage and partially sponsor a variety of educational opportunities in the province. One of those programs is Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) which has been offered in Fredericton and Moncton over the past year. CPE is specialized training for those who wish to have a career in spiritual care in health care. There also continues to be opportunities for staff and volunteers to participate in specialized training in spirituality, ethics and accompaniment organized by the Ottawa Dominican University College and Vitalité Health Network. CHI has helped sponsor some of the attendees in this program in the past. The Network also sponsored a one day conference in March in Fredericton on "Spiritual Caring at the End of Life" which was attended by professional spiritual care providers, volunteers in spiritual care and community clergy. CHANB also helped with the costs for some of the attendees at this conference

EDUCATION

The CHANB Education committee worked with the staff to put together the 2017 conference with the theme: *Hope: The Way Forward.* The committee also recommended it would start a new tradition when it comes to prayer/reflection time during our conferences. A different facility will be asked to lead this time of prayer and reflection each year. The Education Committee is already working on the 2018 conference tentatively planned on a theme of diversity. During the year, CHANB with CHI offered our facilities the opportunity to attend the New Brunswick Hospice Palliative Care Association Conference '*Redefining Palliative Care*' in Moncton in April. CHANB also works closely with CHI on the Catholic Leadership Formation Program. This year 20 students graduated from the program in May. Registrations are now being accepted for both English and French 2018/2019 programs. The Education Committee activities are funded by Catholic Health International. The Committee works very closely with CHI.

ADVOCACY

In addition to the work accomplished by the Ethics group, a series of meetings were held with both Region Health Authorities regarding MAID. A regular annual meeting with the Bishops of the province was held to keep them informed in the development of our policies and the position of the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada. The statement on this issue prepared

together with Catholic Health International and other associated agencies was distributed throughout the CHANB facilities during the past year.

The Association supported Vitalite Health Network in opposing the privatization of specific services within the hospital systems in the province. We plan to continue to monitor this situation and provide additional support if required.

Regular meetings have been and continue to be scheduled with the Senior Management of the Health Authorities to discuss issues of mutual concern. These have had a very positive effect on operations.

CHANB in partnership with CHI and the New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes continue to monitor the proposal by the provincial government to place the assets of the provincial nursing homes on the books of the province. This is still before the courts in action taken by the NBANH.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Board of Directors continued the "roll out" of the five-year strategic plan developed in 2015.

We are partnering with Vitalité and Horizon Health Networks and the Department of Health in presenting a Palliative Care Conference , hopefully in November of this year

GOVERNANCE/OTHER

The Advisory Committee Chair Council met on a regular basis.

A decision was made by the CHANB Board of Directors and supported and financed by the CHI Board of Directors to move forward with the development of a monument to honour the Religious who devoted their lives to health care, education, and social justice. The monument will be sculptured as part of Sculpture Saint John 2018. The location for the placement of the sculpture is still to be determined.

The nomination committee met as required and recommended the reappointment of the Board of Directors as per the By-Laws. They further recommended the nomination of the present executive for a second year.

FINANCIAL

The Association continues to operate in the fiscally responsible manner.

THANK YOU

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

Lise Gurette Daigle,
Chairperson

Robert B. Stewart
Executive Director

Board of Directors



Lisa Guerrette-Daigle
President



Francis Goguen
Past President



Fernand Rioux
Treasurer



Dr. Robert Stewart
Executive Director



Marthe Léger
Director



Vicky Knight
Director



David Levangie
Director



Heather Oakley
Director



Joy VanTassel
Director



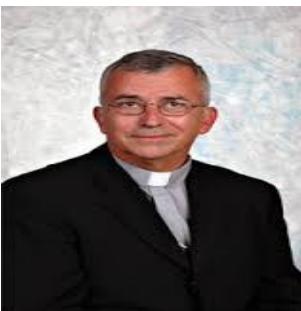
Karen O'Regan
Director



Claire Savoie
Director



Sheana Mohra
Director



Bishop Claude Champagne
Director