

Annual Report 2018

Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick



ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2017-2018

INTRODUCTION:

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

For the past thirty two (32) 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 medically assisted death (Medical Aid in Dying) as a result of the Supreme Court of Canada decision in 2015. As the law was being enacted the CHANB met with representatives from Horizon Health Network, Vitalité Health Network and the Department of Health to indicate the limits of possible involvement in the Catholic hospitals in New Brunswick. This group assured CHANB that they would work with us to maintain our adherence to the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada's (CHAC) *Health Ethics Guide*. Policies and procedures were developed in several of our CHANB Nursing Homes to help staff explain to 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. Once again the CHAC Governing Council sponsored a gathering of the CHAC Ethicists in connection with the CHAC's annual conference. The group met in Niagara Falls and in addition to talking about medically assisted death, there were presentations on "The Integration of a Catholic and Secular Hospital," "Linking Conscience and Vulnerability," "Human Trafficking," and issues related to a lack of Catholic ethicists in Canada. Hazel Markwell continued her work with CHAC as the Ethics and Policy advisor as well as being a consultant to Catholic Health International for consults in CHANB and CHI facilities.

The CHI Ethics pillar continues to be active and has worked on two main initiatives over the year. The first project is the development of an Ethics Poster along with an accompanying Decision-Making document. This poster and pamphlet will be available to all our CHANB/CHI facilities in the Fall of this year. The second project is the development of "Guiding Principles Regarding the Possible Toleration of Assessment of Eligibility Onsite in Catholic Healthcare Facilities." This document was adapted from CHAC's national work and sets criteria for when it is acceptable to allow assessments in our facilities. The document is in translation and will be available soon.

SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS CARE

The New Brunswick Spiritual Health Network (NBSHN), founded by CHANB with the provincial government, 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 these past two years so the committee make up has changed. The Network continues to encourage and partially sponsor a variety of educational opportunities in the province. The Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program continues to be offered with educational opportunities this past year in Fredericton and Saint John. 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 with funding from the NBSHN. St Joseph's Hospital in Saint John recently hired, through Horizon Health Network, a new Director of Spiritual and Religious Care for the facility. Margaret Evans joined the team in August and will work closely with the Director of Mission, Ethics and Spirituality as well as the Facility Manager.

EDUCATION

The CHANB Education committee worked with the staff to put together the 2018 conference with the theme: *Cultural Competence: An Ongoing Quest*. The Education Committee is already working on the 2019 conference tentatively planned on the theme of Violence in the Workplace. CHANB also works closely with CHI on the Catholic Leadership Formation Program. This year Heather Oakley has joined the CHI team as Director of Education Services replacing Sr. Rose-Marie Dufault. Eighteen (18) students from 8 different CHI facilities graduated from the program in June. The Fall French Catholic Leadership Formation Program is scheduled for Tracadie-Sheila at Les Deux Rivieres Resort from October 2 – 4. There are 29 registrants.

Registrations are now being accepted for the English 2019/2020 program. The Education Committee activities are funded by Catholic Health International.

A small subcommittee of the CHANB Education committee has been working on a Palliative Care Conference which is scheduled for October 26th. This conference will take place in two parts, the morning in English and the afternoon in French. The speakers are well known in the area of hospice and palliative care at a national level. Dr. José Pereira is the scientific officer for Pallium Canada and Director of Research for the Colleges of Family Physicians of Canada. He will be joined by Maryse Bouvette, Coordinator of the Ministry of Health Regional Palliative Consultation Team (RPCT) with Bruyere Continuing Care in Ottawa. She was recently the co-chair of the Education working group with the National Strategy on Palliative and End of Life Care. This conference will be available by video to 27 sites throughout New Brunswick. This initiative was led by CHANB/CHI in partnership with Horizon and Vitalité Health Networks and the Province of New Brunswick. It also is being made available to our Nursing Homes, Ambulance NB, Extramural, our New Brunswick Universities and Community Colleges. Please consult the CHANB website for details.

ADVOCACY

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 on Medical Assistance in Dying.

The Association supported Vitalité Health Network in opposing the privatization of specific services within the hospital systems in the province. The provincial government eventually backed down and ended up supporting Vitalité's position.

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.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Board of Directors continued the "roll out" of the five-year strategic plan developed in 2015. It is expected that development of a new five-year plan will take place over the next year in collaboration with Catholic Health International.

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 in the province. The monument was sculptured as part of Sculpture Saint John 2018. Anna Rasin-ska was the chosen artist. Arrangements have been completed for the installation of the monument in the City of Fredericton as part of the Capital Commission.

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 Guerrette-Daigle
President



Robert B. Stewart
Executive Director



AWARDS

Lifetime Achievement Award 2017
Lise Guerrette-Daigle



SCHOLARSHIPS

Francophone Recipient 2017
Vanessa Hyppolite



Anglophone Recipient 2017
Julia Kyle



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lise Guerrette-Daigle—President

Heather Oakley—Vice President

Francis Goguen—Past President

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