



CHAC Advocacy Report

September 2007 - March 2008



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of Canada

Goal 1: Assist Catholic health organizations to position their unique organizational culture, qualities and achievements within the health care system.

Strategies	Activities	Outcomes
Advance the health policy thinking of the fed. government on health issues that are of concern to CHAC members.	Jan. 24/08 – <i>Advocacy Alert</i> distributed to members regarding the GST rebate issue; asking that all publicly funded not-for-profit health services receive the 100% GST rebate that is now provided to municipalities.	Positive response from members; partner associations are working on a short and long term advocacy strategy.
Maximize Catholic health care's national voice and influence. Work with Catholic health care organizations to strategically position Catholic health care for the future. Promote the expertise, achievements and innovation of Catholic health care organizations (and individuals within Catholic health care).	Participated in national coalitions: HEAL, Quality-End-of-Life Care Coalition (QELCC), and Ecumenical Health Care Network (EHCN) Published an EHCN booklet highlighting the role of the churches (and CHAC) in the development and promotion of Medicare in Canada Oct. 4-5/07 – Participated in Cdn. Catholic Bioethics Institute conference on mental health issues; highlighted Catholic health care's involvement Nov. 25/07 presentation to Joint Meeting of Associations and Sponsors on the "Public Perception of Catholic Health Care" (Toronto) Jan. 24/08 online presentation to the Alberta Catholic Health Corp. Advocacy Committee – "Articulating the Value of Catholic Health Care" Member & individual achievements noted on CHAC website Close contact maintained with Provincial Assoc. and Sponsors re. "hot spots" and developments that could affect Catholic health care nationally	Voice of Catholic health care is heard within national advocacy planning bodies Several book reviews published Proceedings to be published by CCBI Two provincial associations and one Sponsor group have expressed interest in pursuing a project on this subject Content will be incorporated into the provincial association's election kit (Feb. 08) Member recognition; public awareness Information sharing; ensures united voice on issues
Respond to ethical issues in light of Catholic identity.	Provided secretariat services to Canadian Christian Bioethicists Network (CCBN); newsletter prepared and distributed Worked with the Catholic Health Assoc. of New Brunswick on a position paper / resource regarding abortion Member of a working group formed by the PJP Sponsors to build and strengthen capacity in ethics services within Catholic health care	Support network further developed; CCBN plans to meet in June 2008 Strategically prepared for responding to the issue Proactive response to a significant emerging need

Goal 2: Promote justice and equity in the delivery of health care in Canada.

Strategies	Activities	Outcomes
<p>Lobby for a clear commitment to the principles of the <i>Canada Health Act</i> on the part of the federal government and political parties.</p> <p>Monitor and respond to developments that would lead to two-tier access to medically necessary health care services in Canada</p>	<p>Sept. 20/07 – Gave a keynote presentation at Catholic Health Assoc. of BC convention: “Access and Advocacy – Health Care That Works for Everyone” (Vancouver)</p> <p>Oct. 22/07 – Issued a CHAC response to the Canadian Medical Association’s (CMA) <i>Medicare Plus Policy Paper</i>. Title of the CHAC response: “Undermining Medicare is not the Solution to Improved Access to Health Care”</p> <p>Notice sent to members regarding national Medicare Week – week of November 18</p> <p>Ecumenical Health Care Network (EHCN) meeting (Sept. 17) and teleconferences (Nov. 14 and Feb. 20). Network mandate: promote the foundational values of Medicare</p> <p>Nov. 29/07 – Met with National CWL advocacy delegation prior to their meeting with the Prime Minister and Minister of Justice</p> <p>Feb. 20/08 – Facilitated a review concerning the future of the EHCN involving reps. from 5 Christian churches</p> <p>Facilitated a discussion on the increased role of the private, for-profit sector in health care delivery at Feb. CHAC board meeting</p> <p>Feb. 26/08 – Presented an outline for a CHAC federal election kit to the CHAC Board of Directors</p> <p>March 30/08 – Presentation to the Mennonite Church of Ottawa on why the churches should be concerned about health care policy</p>	<p>Opportunity to highlight justice and equity issues</p> <p>Strongest member support and reaction to any CHAC advocacy initiative in recent years</p> <p>CHAC advocacy issues and positions voiced to senior government officials</p> <p>Contributed to recommitment to health care issues on the part of major Christian churches; new approach emerging</p> <p>Issue to be pursued with the Provincial Associations and Sponsors</p> <p>Further action to follow</p>

Goal 3: Foster respect for the dignity of the person in public policy.

Strategies	Activities	Outcomes
<p>Lobby for a pan-Canadian strategy for palliative and end-of-life care.</p> <p>Oppose efforts to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide.</p> <p>Promote a compassionate care continuum.</p>	<p>Oct. 25/07 – Served as moderator for a public lecture by Sen. Sharon Carstairs on the state of palliative care in Canada (in conjunction with the annual convention of the Catholic Health Assoc. of Sask. (Moose Jaw)</p> <p>Nov. 1/07 – <i>Advocacy Alert</i> sent to CHAC members: “Federal Leadership Needed for Improved End-of-Life Care”</p> <p>Dec. 4/07 – J. Roche was a member of a 3-person delegation that met with Dani Shaw, Senior Policy Advisor to the Federal Minister of Health – to promote the need for a national plan to improve access to palliative care</p> <p>January 25-26 – J. Roche facilitated a review of the mission/mandate of the Quality End-of-Life Coalition of Canada (QELCC) as part of the coalition’s annual meeting – 21 national associations represented (Ottawa)</p> <p>Feb. 1/08 – CBC The Current – responded to a request to identify ethicists who could address issues related to the withdrawal of medical treatment</p> <p>Feb. 5/08 – Assisted in the development of an election resource kit for the Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition of Canada</p> <p>March 1/08 – Participant and resource person for Ottawa Archdiocesan Conference for Catholics working in health care. Theme: <i>Catholic Perspectives on End of Life Issues</i></p> <p>March 28/08 – Met with legislative assistants on Parliament Hill to inquire about reports that euthanasia / assisted suicide legislation is being drafted</p>	<p>Public awareness leading to grassroots advocacy; awareness of Catholic health care’s role as palliative care deliverer and advocate</p> <p>CHANB wrote to the Premier of New Brunswick; positive response received</p> <p>Ms. Shaw identified other individuals within government for follow-up action in 2008</p> <p>The coalition continues to grow; has been effective in getting the provinces to agree to “gold standards” for palliative care</p> <p>Pat Murphy, ethicist with St. Boniface Health Ethics Service, was interviewed as part of the program</p> <p>Promotion of CHAC resources and services</p> <p>Members to be informed as information becomes available</p>

Goal 4: Prepare and distribute advocacy tools/resources to promote member advocacy awareness and activity

<p>Serve as a resource for members on advocacy issues and strategies.</p> <p>Distribute resources to inform and enhance CHAC member advocacy engagement.</p>	<p>Fall issue of <i>Advocacy Update</i> sent to members (Oct. 11/07)</p> <p><i>Advocacy Alerts</i>: palliative care (Nov. 1); GST rebate (Jan. 24)</p> <p>Federal Election resource kit: to be ready for distribution once a federal election is called</p>
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