



ASSOCIATION CATHOLIQUES
CANADIENNE DE LA SANTÉ

CATHOLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LIVING WITH INTEGRITY: Ethics as the Soul of Health Care

The National Convention of the Catholic Health Association of Canada

Ottawa - As health care becomes more complex, patients, residents, health care organizations and providers often face ethical dilemmas with regard to their values, rights and duties. How to live with integrity in the face of these dilemmas? That is the question members of the Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC) and other participants will explore during the Association's 1999 annual convention to be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, May 15-17. Close to 400 people will gather to hear prominent speakers and to discuss action they can take to promote ethics as the soul of health care.

Major presenters include:

Carol Bayley, Ph.D.

Director of Ethics and Justice Education at Catholic Health-Care West, San Francisco, California

Everyday Ethics - "Every day we have small opportunities to transform ourselves, our communities and our society by making profoundly ethical choices."

Thomas Shannon, Ph.D.

Professor of Religion and Social Ethics, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Massachusetts

Catholic Health Care and Moral Theology: From Cases to Principles and Values - "This presentation will highlight ethical dilemmas in three areas of modern health care. It will also identify principles and values from the Catholic tradition that can be used to address these dilemmas."

Elizabeth Davis, RSM

Chief Executive Officer, Health Care Corporation of St. John's, St. John's, Newfoundland

Health Care Restructuring in Canada: the Promise, the Pain and the Prophecy -

"The presentation will explore the impact of health care restructuring on Catholic health care, the potential for new directions, and the challenge to the church and individuals called to health care ministry."

Hubert Doucet, Ph.D.

Director of Bioethics, University of Montréal, Montréal, Quebec

The Contribution of Theology to the Current Debate about The Terminally Ill - "How best to react as life nears its end? This question is on the mind of everyone. How can theology stimulate a respectful behaviour towards the dying person?"

Margaret Somerville, Ph.D.

Professor, Faculty of Medicine, McGill Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law, Montréal, Quebec

Doing Ethics in Real Time: The Role of Hope and Courage - "What ethical issues will we be facing as we enter the new millennium? How are science and technology changing our ethical discourse? How can we find the courage to believe that one person can make a difference and to act on this belief?"

During the convention eleven workshops will be offered. Themes to be addressed include:

- **Health Care Restructuring** - Elizabeth Davis, RSM
- **Hope and Meaning in Long Term Care** - Kevin Murphy
- **Ethical Decision-Making in Health Care** - Monique Nadeau, M.Sc.inf
- **The Struggle to Live With Integrity** - George Webster, D.Min.
- **The Challenges of Withdrawing Treatment** - Hubert Doucet, Ph.D.
- **The Political Landscape of Euthanasia in Canada** - Janet Epp Buckingham, LL.D.
- **Health Care Ethics Committees: Basic and Persistent Questions** - Pat Murphy, M.Ed.
- **Using the CHAC Health Care Ethics Guide as a Resource** - Kateri Ghesquiere, CSJ
- **Attending to Ethics in Organizational Behaviour** - Michael Coughlin, Ph.D.
- **Advance Care Directives: A Faith-Based Approach** - Mark Miller, C.Ss.R., Ph.D.
- **Ethical Issues and Reproductive Technologies** - Bernard Keating, Ph. D.

In addition, the Association will announce the name of the 1999 recipient of the *Performance Citation Award*, Canada's highest distinction in Catholic health care. The award is given each year to a person or group who exemplify leadership in an activity, program or project worthy of national recognition for its building up of the Christian community in an extraordinary way.