



Catholic Health Alliance of Canada

*CHAC's mission is to nurture and support the ministry of
Catholic health care organizations and providers*

Key Activities in 2009

The redesign of the CHAC in 2009 was based in part on the belief that there are unique functions that the national secretariat can fulfill in support of Catholic health care at a pan-Canadian level. The four focus areas that have been identified for the organization are ethics, leadership development, mission and values integration and advocacy. This report presents a brief overview of projects undertaken over the past year under those four headings, as well as an overview of governance-related projects.

James Roche
President

Advocacy

Bill C-384 Assisted Suicide Bill



The CHAC undertook numerous activities in relation to Bill C-384 (a bill to legalize physician-assisted suicide in Canada). Activities included:

- Distribution of an *Advocacy Alert* to all Catholic health care organizations.
- Promotion of a letter-writing campaign to all MPs
- Letters from CHAC to the leaders of the major federal parties
- Working with other Catholic organizations (CCCB, COLF and CCBI) in developing common strategies and messaging.
- Sr. Nuala represented CHAC in media interviews and worked with Bruyere Continuing Care in preparing for a press conference on the issue that took place on Parliament Hill.

Advocating Improved Access to Palliative Care



The CHAC has been an active member of the Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition of Canada since 2000. The coalition is working to improve access to quality palliative care for all Canadians in all its various settings. James Roche is currently a member of the coalition's advocacy committee. In the winter of 2010 the coalition will issue a progress report assessing developments over the past 10 years in five priority areas of action.

Working to protect Canada's public health system

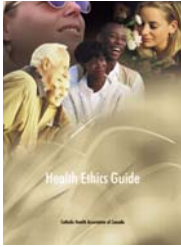


Canadian
Health
Coalition

The CHAC is also one of the founding members of the Canadian Health Coalition, which is dedicated to protecting and expanding Canada's public health system for the benefit of all Canadians. In November 2009 the Coalition celebrated its 30th anniversary. The CHAC continues to work with partner organizations in responding to threats to the principles of justice and equity that underly Canada's public system.

Ethics

CHAC Health Ethics Guide revision



The two-year project to revise the CHAC *Health Ethics Guide* is on schedule and nearing completion. Final revisions should be completed by the end of 2009. After translation the document will then be submitted to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops for approval. After receiving approval the document will be printed and available for distribution. The review of the current guide, which took place in 2007, and the revision process (in 2008-2009) has involved more than 40 Catholic ethicists in Canada, United States, Australia and Britain.

Our Ethics



The CHAC worked with the network of sponsor organizations to undertake a survey of CEOs and ethicists working within Catholic health care organizations. The goal of the project is to explore ways to ensure that the national Catholic health care network has access to ethicists and ethics resources.

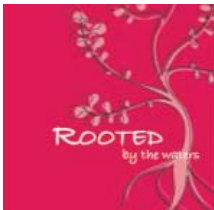
Mission & Values Integration

CHAC Annual Conference



The 2009 CHAC Annual Conference in Vancouver brought together 300 people from Catholic health care organizations throughout Canada to reflect on the theme *Ethics Matter: Creating an Ethical Culture in Health Care*. The 2010 conference will be held in Toronto and will focus on how Catholic health care can best adapt to the trends and transformations of our time. The list of keynote speakers includes Sister Carol Keehan, Jim Carroll, Dianne Doyle and Fr. Myles Sheehan, SJ.

World Day of the Sick Resources



For more than 10 years the CHAC has produced a resource kit for use by Catholic health care organizations and parishes to mark the annual celebration World Day of the Sick on February 11. Work is under way on a kit for 2010. The package will be mailed to Catholic facilities the first week of January. The occasion provides an opportunity for organizations and individuals to reflect on their role in the healing ministry.

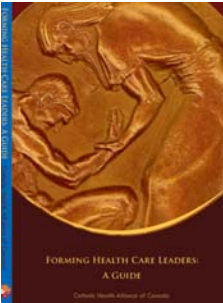
New CHAC Website



In October 2009 the CHAC launched its new website – www.chac.ca. The goal was to make the site more user friendly and to redesign it in such a way that in the future resources related to the core elements of Catholic health care can be made more readily available.

Leadership Development

Forming Health Care Leaders: A Guide



Published in 2009, the development of this new resource was a joint project of the Catholic provincial associations and sponsor groups. In May the CHAC took on the responsibility for promotion and sales of the leadership guide. This introductory text is both a learning resource and a reference guide for forming leaders within Catholic health care.

Sr. Nuala Kenny, MD



In May of 2009 Dr. Nuala Kenny assumed the role of CHAC Ethics and Health Policy Adviser. Since that time she has been actively involved in numerous CHAC projects including the revision of the *Health Ethics Guide*, and the development of advocacy strategies in relation to Bill C-384 (assisted suicide legislation). In addition, she has worked with the CHAC Governing Council in its strategic planning discussions. Sister Nuala's research interest in professional development and formation also matches well with the CHAC commitment to leadership development.

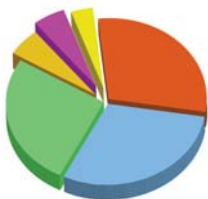
Governance & Administration

Governance



Background support, research and communications related to the redesign of CHAC were major activities within the CHAC office in 2009. Office staff worked to facilitate the work of the National Secretariat Task Group in 2008-2009 which involved examination of the structures that exist at the national level to support the health care ministry in Canada. The office played a similar role in the presentation and implementation of the CHAC Redesign Proposal that was presented during the 2009 CHAC Annual Assembly.

Operational Redesign



The redesign of the CHAC establishes the national office as a secretariat that will undertake a limited number of projects that have been discerned as priorities by the Governing Council. At the same time, the redesign calls for more effective use of limited resources, and for resources to be directed as much as possible to the delivery of products and services. In 2009 various cost-saving measures and other changes were implemented including the following:

- review and renegotiation of service contracts;
- realignment of staff positions and shifting to contracting of some projects to ensure access to expertise in the focus areas of the organization;
- reducing dramatically the amount of budget allocated to governance support (Governing Council meetings).