

## Catholic Health Alliance of Canada Establishes New Secretariat

As Chairperson of the Governing Council of the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada I am pleased to provide this update on the latest activities of the Alliance. Over the spring and summer months we have been engaged in a planning process aimed at articulating the mission, mandate and strategic directions of the Alliance. In addition, the Governing Council has considered how the Alliance can best undertake its work, and what qualities and competencies are required in the leadership role, in order *to strengthen the ministry and be the national voice of Catholic health care in Canada.*

In April of 2009 the former national Catholic health association underwent a major transformation, becoming an alliance of sponsors of Catholic health ministry in Canada. As part of its planning process the Governing Council defined the mandate of the Alliance as follows: to identify and implement projects in four focus areas: **ethics; leadership development; mission** and **values integration**; and **national advocacy**. These four focus areas will shape the strategic directions of the Alliance as we move forward. In the remainder of the newsletter we report on activities within the four strategic directions of the Alliance.

I trust you will find the newsletter to be informative, and I encourage you to contact the representative of your sponsor group on the Governing Council to learn more about the work of the Alliance.

### New Secretariat

In addition to reassessing its strategic directions, the Governing Council undertook a review of the finances and operating plans of the Alliance. A key component of this review involved the determination of how the Alliance will get its work done. That work is to involve a limited number of projects deemed to be of priority in implementing the strategic directions for the benefit of the Catholic health ministry in Canada.

After weighing all the factors, the Governing Council made the following decisions:

- The Alliance will employ an Executive Director to coordinate projects on its behalf and to exercise responsibility for the secretariat which will be located in Ottawa.
- The Executive Director will be the only employee of the Alliance and will be accountable to the Governing Council.
- The Executive Director will work in close collaboration with Sister Nuala Kenny, Ethics and Health Policy Advisor to the Alliance. Contract services will be utilized on an as-needed basis, and in this regard the Alliance looks forward to maintaining its relationship with Greg Humbert who provided a wide range of services over this past year. Finally, the expectation is that the Executive Director will work in collaboration with others involved in the ministry, and engage experts in the areas of ethics, mission and leadership development who are located in the many Catholic health care organizations across Canada.
- The elimination of the administrative support position has resulted in the departure of Joan Lawrence from the Ottawa office. The Governing Council deeply appreciates the contribution Joan made over the past 5 years, and her dedication and hard work during the transition period of the last several months.
- The existing office will be closed. A smaller office will be established within the facilities of Bruyère Continuing Care in Ottawa. Thanks go to Jean Bartkowiak, CEO, and to the staff at Bruyère for their assistance in establishing the office. The move to the new office is scheduled to take place in early November.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Shea'.

Michael Shea, Chairperson

# Executive Director Appointed

The Governing Council is pleased to announce that James Roche, who formerly held the position of President with the Catholic Health Association of Canada, has accepted the new position of Executive Director of the Alliance's secretariat in Ottawa. The Governing Council believes the Catholic health care ministry in Canada will greatly benefit from James' long-standing experience and commitment to Catholic health care.

## Health Ethics Guide

In the Spring of 2010 the English version of a revised *Health Ethics Guide* was completed. That marked the culmination of a 2-year project.

Following that, a French translation was prepared and over the summer a thorough review of the translation was undertaken by Bishop Noël Simard to ensure the text is technically correct and accurately reflects the English version.

The Alliance is deeply appreciative of the work of the Core Group that undertook the task of revising the guide. The list of members includes:



**Fr. Michael Prieur**  
*Chairperson*

**Pat Murphy**  
*Health Care Ethics Service  
St. Boniface General Hospital*



**Archbishop Bertrand Blanchet**  
*Archbishop Emeritus, Rimouski*

**James Roche**  
*Project Manager*



**Eoin Connolly**  
*Centre for Clinical Ethics  
Toronto*

**Gordon Self**  
*VP Mission, Ethics & Spirituality  
Covenant Health, Edmonton*



**Hazel Markwell**  
*Centre for Clinical Ethics  
Toronto*

**Bishop Noël Simard**  
*Auxiliary Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie,  
Ontario*



**Sister Nuala Kenny**  
*Ethics & Health Policy Advisor  
Catholic Health Alliance*

**Michael Coughlin**  
*Former Ethics Consultant  
St. Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton  
Editor*



The process for granting the Church's approval to the guide is established by the Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC). The Permanent Council is composed of 14 member Bishops. Its principal responsibility is to oversee the activities and orientations of the CCCC.

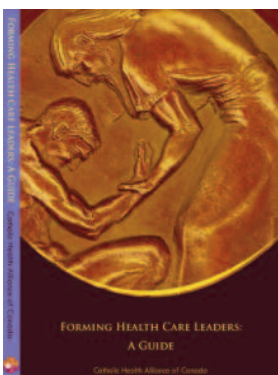
During its Spring meeting the Permanent Council called upon the Commission for Doctrine within the CCCC to lead the review of the revised *Health Ethics Guide* text. This commission is composed of 5 member Bishops and is assisted by Secretariat staff. The commission's review is well under way and it has consulted a number of external experts as part of the process. The commission will submit its final report and recommendations to a regular meeting of the Permanent Council in November. After that meeting the Alliance will be informed of the results of the review.

## Meeting of Ethicists

The Alliance organized a teleconference that took place on September 14, 2010, involving ethicists working within Catholic health care organizations in Canada. Chaired by Sister Nuala Kenny, the meeting provided an opportunity for an initial discussion about how best to roll out the new *Health Ethics Guide* after it has been approved. When a new guide was launched in the past, the ethicists played an important role in providing local or regional workshops in which they introduced the guide, highlighted changes or revisions, and educated about how to use the guide to ensure ethics permeates the entire organization and is integrated into the complex governance, administrative, operational and clinical decisions that need to be made.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for the ethicists to inform the sponsor groups that comprise the Alliance about what it could do to support them in the important role they play within Catholic health care.

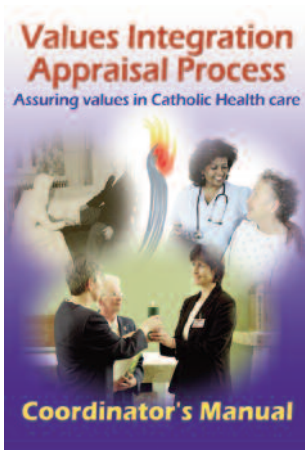
## Leadership Development



Development of the publication *Forming Health Care Leaders: A Guide* was a joint project of the network of sponsors, provincial Catholic health associations, and the former national association (CHAC). The guide has been available since the summer of 2009. It is intended to assist in the preparation of learning activities in support of the distinctive elements of Catholic health care in

Canada. It can be used for personal study and as a resource or reference in organized learning activities and other situations. During the 2010 Annual Conference in Toronto a poster presentation was used to illustrate the various ways the guide is being used. Over the coming year the Alliance will continue to explore ways of using the guide to support the ministry.

## Mission and Values Integration



Development of the revised *Values Integration Appraisal Process* (VIAP) in 2009 was another joint project of the national and provincial Catholic health associations, and the network of sponsors.

First developed in 1997, the process is a valuable tool and has proven to be successful in:

- identifying to what extent values have been integrated into the organization;

- educating boards and all levels of staff about values;
- providing a benchmark for ongoing growth.

Manuals have been produced for the external consultant who leads the process and for the facility coordinator. Participant handbooks have also been revised. A new brochure identifies the four phases of the process and details the steps that need to be taken to initiate the process within an organization.

The revised VIAP will be piloted in the coming months by the Catholic Health Corporation of Ontario and Catholic Health International. For more information on the process contact your sponsor organization.



## Advocacy

The collective voice of the Catholic health ministry in Canada is a powerful force for change that can contribute to the development of just health policy and the creation of quality, compassionate health care for all Canadians. While the delivery of health care in Canada is a provincial responsibility, the values and principles that shape our health care system are defined at the federal level.

The ministry's advocacy priorities are shaped by Catholic values and social teaching, including our convictions that:

- Every person is the subject of human dignity.
- The dignity of life must be respected in all stages of life, and throughout the continuum of care.
- Public policy is to serve the common good.
- The social and economic needs of people who are poor or marginalized are to be given preferential attention.
- Health care is best understood as a human service, not a commodity to be exchanged for profit.
- There must be responsible stewardship of resources.

Traditionally, a number of strategies have been used to further this advocacy role at the national level including:

- Public policy development – this includes the development of position papers and various information products.
- Government relations – participation in meetings and consultations with elected officials, and presentations to parliamentary committees.
- Coalitions – through participation in coalitions and partnerships the views of the Catholic health ministry are presented and contribute to the decision making process relevant to national health issues.

Over the coming months the Alliance will be clarifying its advocacy role and priorities.

## Building Relationships

Building relationships with other organizations is seen as an important strategy by the Governing Council in the implementation of the Alliance's strategic directions – particularly in relation to its national advocacy role. This includes Catholic health organizations as well as other organizations with which Catholic health care has had long-standing relationships. The following is a list and brief description of some of these organizations:

### **Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute (CCBI)**

Based in Toronto, the CCBI works to promote the dignity of the human person through interdisciplinary ethics research and education in health care and life sciences.

### **Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC)**

The General Secretariat of the CCCC is based in Ottawa. It assists the Bishops in their pastoral work and provides the link between the Bishops and other Catholic organizations, as well as with Christian churches, other faith groups and government authorities.

### **Canadian Doctors for Medicare (CDM)**

CDM is an organization of physicians, medical students and others concerned with maintaining and improving Canada's universal, single-payer health care system.

### **The Health Action Lobby (HEAL)**

Comprised of more than 30 national health organizations and associations, HEAL was formed in 1991 out of concern over the erosion of the federal government's role in supporting a national health care system.

### **Canadian Health Coalition (CHC)**

The Catholic Health Association of Canada was one of the founding members of CHC in 1979. The coalition is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting and expanding Canada's public health system for the benefit of all Canadians.

### **Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition of Canada (QELCCC)**

The Catholic Health Alliance of Canada is a member of this coalition of 30 national organizations, which advocates a sustainable national strategy that will make quality, end-of-life care available to all Canadians.

### **Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ)**

A national organization of members inspired by faith to act for justice in Canadian public policy.

## **Catholic Health Alliance of Canada**

*An alliance of Catholic sponsor organizations in Canada*

Diocese of Victoria

Sisters of St. Ann

Providence Health Care Society (Vancouver)

Catholic Health of Alberta

Sisters of Providence of Western Canada

Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation

Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba

Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate

Catholic Health Corporation of Ontario

St. Joseph's Health Care Society (London)

Catholic Health International

## **CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS**



### ***Compassion: The Heart of our Vision***

The 2011 Annual Conference of the *Catholic Health Alliance of Canada* will be held May 4-6 in Winnipeg. The conference will be held in collaboration with the Catholic Health Association of Manitoba (CHAM).

The Conference theme – ***Compassion: The Heart of Our Vision*** – has been chosen to provide an opportunity to renew an understanding and experience of how compassion and healing relationships are lived out in Catholic health care.

The deadline for the submission of workshop proposals is **October 15, 2010**. More information about the workshops and guidelines for submitting proposals can be found on the Alliance website: [www.chac.ca](http://www.chac.ca)