

CHAC Newsletter

Catholic Health Alliance of Canada



February 2010

CHAC Governing Council Activities

In November 2009, in a communiqué sent to all Catholic health care organizations, I indicated that the CHAC Governing Council would be meeting to develop a plan for replacing James Roche, who will be leaving the position of President at the end of February. That meeting took place at the end of November. In addition to discussing plans for a leadership search the Council developed a longer-term strategic planning process aimed at determining how the alliance of sponsors can best deliver products in its four focus areas. In this edition of the newsletter I want to update you on both these matters.



First, I am happy to report that Mr. Greg Humbert has agreed to take on the role of “Interim Project Manager” on a part-time basis, from March 2010 to the end of August 2010. Greg was employed by the CHAC from 1998 to 2006. When he left the organization in 2006 to semi-retire he held the position of Director of Convention Coordination & Member Resources. Greg is currently a representative for the Catholic Health Corporation of Ontario (CHCO) on the Mattawa Hospital Board of Directors. Working from his home at Tomiko Lake, Ontario, Greg will be responsible for ensuring current projects move forward to completion and he will serve as the contact person with the Governing Council regarding administrative matters and operations.

Joan Lawrence will continue to provide administrative services from the CHAC office in Ottawa. Sister Nuala Kenny will be working closely with the Governing Council in her role as Ethics & Health Policy Adviser.

With this short-term plan in place the Governing Council will be able to devote its energies to a planning process that will be initiated during the March 4-5 Governing Council meeting in Ottawa. In a facilitated session the Council will begin their reflection on what projects will best support Catholic health care at this particular time; how that work might be best undertaken; and, after answering these and other questions, the Council will determine what qualities and competencies are required in considering a possible leadership role.

In the coming months the Governing Council will keep you informed about these discussions and update you on developments.

Sincerely,

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

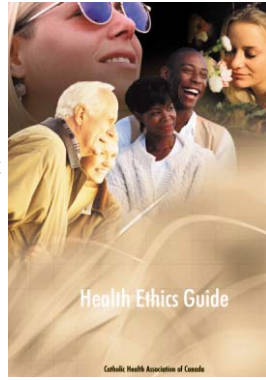
Michael Shea
Chair





Health Ethics Guide revision – completed

The project to revise the text of the 2000 *Health Ethics Guide* has been completed. This intensive, two-year project has resulted in some significant changes including:



- a new introduction;
- new Chapter 1 text on the “Social Nature of Care”;
- an effort to respond to increasingly complex health care issues;
- an expanded treatment of issues related to governance and administration.

The revised text is currently undergoing a legal review. Preparation of a French translation should be completed in February. The text will then be submitted to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) for approval. The CCCC will determine a process for review during a March meeting of the CCCC Permanent Council. Based on past experience with former editions of the guide, it is expected that the approval process will take several months.

Bill C-384 (A bill to legalize assisted suicide)

During the Fall of 2009 the CHAC undertook various advocacy activities in relation to Bill C-384. The bill would amend the *Criminal Code* to permit, under certain conditions, assisted suicide. The second hour of debate and vote on the bill, which were to take place in the Fall of 2009, and then February 2010, have been put off three times when Francine Lalonde, the MP who introduced the Private Member’s bill, traded back her position in the order of precedence.

The decision of Prime Minister Harper to prorogue parliament until the first week of March will result in further delays in relation to the bill. When parliament returns on March 3 all Private Members’ bills that have not received a vote – such as Bill C-384 – will once again need a first and second hour of debate before a vote will take place. While the first hour of debate will likely

occur in March, it has been suggested that the bill will not go to a vote before June.

The CHAC plans to distribute a follow-up *Advocacy Alert* on the subject of euthanasia and assisted suicide in the coming months.

Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition issues a Progress Report

The CHAC is an active member of the Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition of Canada (QELCCC). Over the past 10 years, the 30 national organizations that are members of the QELCCC have worked together to improve access to quality end-of-life care for all Canadians. In 2000, the QELCCC developed the Blueprint for Action; a working document used to guide and focus the coalition’s efforts over the past decade. Ten years later, a progress report has been developed to measure the level of change experienced in end-of-life care in Canada. The coalition will launch *10 Years Later: A Progress Report on the Blueprint for Action* on January 28 during its annual meeting in Ottawa. Dr. Nuala Kenny will represent the CHAC at the meeting.

The progress report is available on the coalition’s website: <http://www.chpca.net/qelccc.htm>

CHAC Annual Conference 2010

The CHAC annual conference provides an opportunity for attendees from throughout Canada to explore intriguing and challenging subject matter, enter into lively and diverse discourse, and to return to their organizations empowered on a personal and professional level.

For information about the 2010 program and for registration information please visit the CHAC website: www.chac.ca



Health Care Trends and Transformation

What Catholic health care organizations must do in an era of constant change

Delta Chelsea Hotel
Toronto, Ontario
April 30 - May 2, 2010