

Our Vision and Covenant for Catholic Health Ministry

2016 - 2017



Catholic Health
Association of Saskatchewan

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Preamble: the origin of this document comes from our desire as a Board of Directors to lay a strong foundation regarding the role and work of our Association. It becomes the 'road map', if you will, to communicate to our membership and communities what we value, and our pledge to invest our human and financial resources in a specific direction. We entrust this document to the reader as our goodwill, setting a tone with language from our spirit and heart - the place from which vision and covenant is truly born.

Formed in 1943 to be a voice for Catholic hospitals and long-term care facilities, with the aim to preserve and promote Catholic health care in the province, and understanding that the healing ministry of Christ is an activity of the whole Church, we, the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan, as represented by our Board of Directors and staff, pledge to advance Catholic health by:

SERVING OUR MEMBERSHIP

Acknowledging that our organization is membership-based, and volunteer-driven, we affirm that there is a responsibility to proclaim and promote the mission, vision and values of Catholic health within our member facilities, like-minded organizations and faith communities (CWLs, K of Cs, parishes, other Christian faith-based groups) and individuals who seek to live out their baptismal call.

We pledge to:

- **commit human and financial resources for Catholic ethics services to our member facilities**
2016-17 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and **new**):
 - continued contract for Bioethicist services (position is currently vacant, once filled, will proceed with continued coordination of educational sessions and site visits to member facilities)
 - publishing monthly newsletter, SaskEthics (on hold)
 - continued promotion booklet “*A Faith-Based Advance Health Care Directive*”
 - Quarterly Stakeholders Meetings - collaboration and networking with CHAS and Emmanuel Care staff regarding ethics and missions initiatives
 - offering of appropriate responses, educational opportunities and resources regarding Physician Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia.
 - collaboration with like-minded stakeholders and advocacy regarding concerns with PAS/E
- **provide leadership, training and resources to promote mission and spiritual care**
Completed 2015-16 Activities/Initiatives
 - **completion of Mission Formation Experiential Program naming and graphics—Witness to Mission**2016-17 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and **new**):
 - continued promotion and offering of Witness to Mission, a 5-day retreat-style experience for facility cohorts of 10 - 20 people to explore the values and history of Catholic health care, as well as their personal contribution to a team, facility and larger ministry as a whole
 - development and delivery of a forum-style educational session - Critical Conversations - that deals with relevant topics pertaining to health issues that intersect with a faith perspective (held regionally and annually every Spring)
 - Leader's Library (2 new books gifted to each facility leader per year in June and December)
 - furthering efforts of a national booklet for the purpose of orientation and promoting mission to new hires in Catholic health care facilities, with endorsement of CHAC and other provincial Associations
 - in conjunction with the SHPCA, CHAS to financially contribute on an annual basis to the offering of LEAP (Learning Essentials and Approaches in Palliative Care) education to Catholic health facilities and their neighbouring communities
- **provide networking opportunities to create a supportive and collegial family of Catholic health care providers**
2015-16 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and **new**):
 - quarterly newsletter (containing informative articles and newsworthy provincial happenings)
 - re-design of web site—www.chassk.ca
 - access to relationship and resources of CHAS Mission Education Coordinator
 - annual provincial convention (every third week of October); 2016 will represent our 73rd gathering, to be planned as a Joint Conference with Catholic Education (3rd joint gathering)

KEY: green text represents completed activities and initiatives, black text represents on-going work, gold text represents new work for the year.

- CHAS ED to serve on the CHAC National Conference Planning committee
- **provide opportunity for recognition and celebration for those who are champions in Catholic health**
2016-17 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and **new**):
 - annual Mission Award
 - Moola Freer Palliative Care award and scholarship
 - Honorary Membership to the Association
- **foster dialogue, create opportunity, encourage and educate organizations and individuals to move towards a culture of vocational calling**
2016-17 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and **new**):
 - board and staff to visit the facilities regularly (4-year cycle with hosted quarterly Board meetings) to bring education, build relationship (share a meal), and provide encouragement to facility leaders

SERVING OUR BISHOPS

Acknowledging that our structural accountability is to our membership, we affirm that the Bishops of Saskatchewan are valued as Honorary Members of our Association, and, as leaders and shepherds of the Church, we seek their wisdom and guidance on all theological and pastoral aspects of Catholic health ministry.

We pledge to:

- **maintain active dialogue and accountability with our Bishop's Representative who is appointed by the Bishops of Saskatchewan and serves as a voting member on our Board of Directors**
2016-17 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and **new**):
 - invitation to the Bishop's Representative to attend and participate in quarterly Executive and Board meetings
 - Board & ED to bring forward any concerns or issues in a timely manner
- **provide opportunity for spiritual reflection, direction and celebration**
2016-17 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and **new**):
 - invite the Bishop's Representative to preside and preach at Mass preceding quarterly Board meetings
 - Invite the Bishops of Saskatchewan to attend our annual gathering and address the membership in whatever manner they choose

SERVING OUR PARTNERS

Acknowledging that our key partner in Catholic health care ministry is Emmanuel Care (Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation), and affirming their role and responsibilities as a public juridic person in Catholic health, we seek to work collaboratively and effectively in an ever-changing landscape of institutional health care service delivery.

We pledge to:

- **build collegial relationships at the board level**
2016-17 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and **new**):
 - support opportunities to network or share in collective educational sessions that are pertinent to board governance and Catholic leadership
 - maintain the participant/observer role for ED/CEO on respective CHAS and Emmanuel Care Boards
- **invite and maintain open lines of communication at the staff level**
2016-17 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and **new**):
 - invite opportunities for staff to work in tandem on mission-related initiatives
- **provide clear communication to Emmanuel Care and member facilities regarding our role and efforts as an Association in fulfilling our mandate**
2016-17 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and **new**):
 - offer continued communication re: Witness to Mission; seek from Emmanuel Care continued endorsement and support of the program to the facilities

- **meaningfully contribute to the strategic future direction of Catholic health in Saskatchewan**
2016-17 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and **new**):
- seek opportunities to collaborate with the Emmanuel Care on strategic planning as it pertains to the provision of education and resources in mission, spiritual care and ethics in the member facilities.

SERVING OUR PARISHES AND COMMUNITY

Acknowledging that our communities and culture are shifting to more secular, post-modern attitudes, and that the visible presence of the founding congregations of Sisters is lessening, we seek to embrace and build on the legacy of those who once pioneered the healing ministry of Jesus, and continue, as laity, to be a beacon of the Gospel with dialogue and action that is relevant to our time.

We pledge to:

- **provide broad-based education, resources and opportunities to promote and celebrate Catholic health ministry**
Completed 2015-16 Activities/Initiatives
- 5th season - provision of up to 7 articles to the *Prairie Messenger* to promote and highlight the value of Catholic health care (under the banner of Catholic Connections)
2016-17 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and **new**):
- development and delivery of a forum-style educational session - Critical Conversations - that deals with relevant topics pertaining to health issues that intersect with a faith perspective (held regionally and annually every Spring)
- continued promotion and support of Diocesan-led Compassionate Healers Masses which provide a time of celebration and commissioning for those who serve in Catholic health care ministry;
- World Day of the Sick—providing materials to all Diocesan offices (to be forwarded to individual priests/parishes) for a blessing ritual for health care providers to be incorporated in the Mass closest to Feb 11th
- 6th season - provision of up to 7 articles to the *Prairie Messenger* to promote and highlight the value of Catholic health care (under the banner of Catholic Connections)
- **network with and support like-minded organizations/ministries, understanding that our established and resourced Association has a responsibility to provide leadership and expertise in faith-based health ministry**
Completed 2015-16 Activities/Initiatives
- Working with a sub-committee under Catholic Connections, CHAS ED, Sandra Kary completed commitment as the Project Lead for the Sisters Legacy Celebration held on Oct 1/15
2016-17 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and **new**):
- continued relationship-building with the 15 faith-based health care organizations in Saskatchewan
- connecting with Diocesan offices
- connecting with Parish Nursing
- connecting with Sask Catholic Connections
- connecting with Sask Hospice Palliative Care Association
- in conjunction with the SHPCA, CHAS to financially contribute on an annual basis to the offering of LEAP (Learning Essentials and Approaches in Palliative Care) education to Catholic health facilities and their neighbouring communities
- connecting with Spiritual Care Sask
- CHAS ED, Sandra Kary, to serve as the Chair of the Provincial Associations (meeting twice annually); serving as the Association Representative on the Governing Council of the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (quarterly meetings, including annual national conference)
- connecting with other Catholic ministries and community organizations (i.e. St. Therese Catholic College, Catholic Family Services, SIAST)