

Letter from CHAS President re: Gov't Funding Cuts

December 15, 2016

Dear members of the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan,

On October 3, 2016, CHAS received a telephone call from the Ministry of Health, informing us that our long-standing provincial grant would not be renewed, which, in effect, meant that the funding cut would be retroactive to June 30, 2016. Losing this funding, a full one-third of our revenue stream, came as a shock to our organization, but in light of the provincial and health region deficits and job lay-offs, in retrospect, it wasn't too much of a surprise. Certainly, we look around and see that there are many other non-profit organizations who find themselves in a similar situation in these challenging financial times.

From that phone call in early October, we worked quickly to prepare an announcement for the Assembly at the Annual General Meeting on October 20th, held at the Heritage Inn in Moose Jaw. And together with our Executive Director, we worked diligently to create a revised 'bare-bones' deficit budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year, thereby allowing us to respond to the short term needs, and giving us time to discern and strategize for the future and long-term sustainability of the Association.

Since the Annual General Meeting, we have been in contact with the Ministry of Health, issuing a request and inviting their response, to reconsider funding up until the day of notice, if not beyond. In light of our 30-year contractual relationship with the government, we felt this was only fair. To date, we have not received their final response in this regard.

As your President, and on behalf of the Board of Directors, we are keenly aware of the challenge, and yet opportunity for change for the Association in light

of this funding loss. We will be in close contact with our key stakeholders - the Bishops of Saskatchewan, our member Catholic health facilities, Emmanuel Care and others - to discern how best to re-position the Association for the betterment of Catholic health care in the province. We are also fully aware of the wonderful support that we have in our stakeholders, and have been so encouraged by all who are standing with us at this time as we prayerfully consider next steps.

At the beginning of all of this, our Executive Director, Sandra Kary, brought to light this quote by Winston Churchill, *"Never let a good crisis go to waste."* Along with that came the encouragement from Proverbs 3:5-6, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."* Indeed, having just come from our conference with the reminder that *Hope Floats*, we remain confident, as a people of faith, that God will lead us and provide a way forward.

In the days ahead, we will be entering into strategic planning and consultations, and we invite your prayers and support. We will lean into our legacy, and the example of the Sisters - to be creative, to think 'outside the box' and to have courage and faith that we are doing God's work, keeping at the forefront of our mind that it is all unto serving those who are in greatest need.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Chris Donald
Board Chair, CHAS



2016 CHAS Conference - Hope Floats

Marking its 73rd anniversary, the CHAS Conference was held from October 20-21 at the Heritage Inn in Moose Jaw. The theme, *Hope Floats: serving in health care as people of faith*, invited us to bring more intention in discovering where hope lives within our work. Our first keynote was **Dr. David Kuhl**, Founder and Director of the Centre for Practitioner Renewal in Vancouver, BC. Speaking to the theme “*What We Know, Cures; Who We Are, Heals*,” Dr. Kuhl spoke to relationship-centred healthcare as an approach that recognizes the importance and uniqueness of each health care provider, and offering evidence-based research on resilience, communication and healthy relationships in the workplace.

Throughout his address “*Surprised by Hope*” **Mark Pickup** spoke metaphorically about the river of grief as a necessary component in dealing with loss. “People need to grieve a loss; they need to know that there are people around them who will uncompromisingly hold up the value of their lives – even if they cease to believe in their own value,” Mark was speaking of his own thirty year journey with degenerative MS. By discovering purpose and meaning in and through his suffering, Mark discovered that, “it is not suffering that destroys people, rather the bitter experience of suffering without meaning.”

In his presentation, “*More than a Feeling: A Theological Reflection on Hope*” **Archbishop Emeritus Sylvain Lavoie** reflected on the deeper origins of hope and the powerful role it plays in our lives. Lavoie emphasized the importance of patterns:

faith, hope and love noting how our life and even our death is to be the optimal model of ‘how’ we live and ‘how’ we die. When speaking of suffering as an element of hope, Lavoie brought forward that our task is to give back hope by journeying within suffering to look forward to unfolding its meaning and purpose. Hope allows us to “face our present.” Lavoie stated simply, “the only way we get through pain is to get through pain. We are transformed people who transform people. If we are humble to share our weaknesses then others will share their weakness and we grow together.” Lavoie spoke of hope being strange and wonderful. It is not that we won’t be saved from pain and suffering, rather, to recognize that we can bear this. God has boundless mercy and offers endless chances.

Using comedy as a platform for his faith, humorist, **Phil Callaway’s** jokes and tales held great appeal to a broad spectrum of the audience. He offered a point of connection by sharing the capacity of understanding he holds for those who are caregivers as he cared for his wife in the wake of her epilepsy. The **World Café** emphasized the power of simple conversations in considering topics generated over the two days. Facilitator **Leah Perrault** invited delegates to rotate among the stations of topics to offer their insights, writing down key thoughts or ideas.

In the closing mass, newly installed **Archbishop of Regina Don Bolen** led us in a wonderful celebration that included a blessing for all caregivers and a commissioning for the board and staff of CHAS.

2016-17 CHAS Board/Staff

We are pleased to introduce our 2016-17 CHAS Board and Staff:

Back row, L to R: Lesley Larrea (Prince Albert), Chris Donald (President, Saskatoon), Therese Jelinski (Saskatoon), Archbishop Don Bolen (Bishops’ Representative), Joe Simonot (Saskatoon), Fr. Rhéal Bussi ere (Saskatoon).

Front Row, L to R: Sandra Kary (Executive Director), Bonnie Thiele Hunt (Regina), Ethna Martin (Saskatoon), Anne Reddekopp (Secretary/Treasurer, Saskatoon), Terrie Michaud (North Battleford), Marissa Alarcon (Executive Assistant), Sandy Normand (Mission Education Coordinator).

Absent from photo are: Mary Deutscher (Saskatoon), and Scott Irwin. (Emmanuel Care).



2016 Catholic Health Award Recipients

CHAS Mission Award:

Brian Martin, Prince Albert

Brian has worked in health care for most of his career, and since 1998 has served as the Executive Director of Mont. St. Joseph Home in Prince Albert. During this time, he was also involved with CHAS (2001-13), offering the Association the same inspiration, passion, and leadership that he did in his own facility and local community. Congratulations, Brian, you are a most worthy recipient of the 2016 CHAS Mission Award!



grown to not only provided many scholarships for educational opportunities, but has honoured many others in their desire to bring the advancement of palliative care to the forefront. Their collective vision, and significant contribution, has served as a beacon and guide for the Association in its call to advance palliative care. CHAS is deeply grateful for your presence and contribution. Congratulations!

Moola Freer Palliative Care Award:

Dr. Lawrence Clein, Regina

Dr. Clein practiced as a neurosurgeon for most of his career, but in 1997 shifted the focus of his practice, and soon after became the

Medical Director for the Regina Qu'appelle Health Region's Palliative Care Services. In that time, he pioneered treatments in palliative medicine, contributed to textbooks

in this field of study and lectured both nationally and internationally. Although he is now retired from clinical practice, he continues to teach in both Regina and Saskatoon, passing on the principles of palliative care to a new generation of medical students, allied health students, and nursing students. Congratulations, Dr. Clein!



Dr. Lawrence Clein (middle), CHAS Moola Freer Palliative Care Award Recipient

CHAS Honorary Membership: Dr. Dawood and Anne Moola, Christopher Lake

Some 20 years ago, Dr. Dawood and Anne Moola made a generous donation to CHAS to establish the Moola Freer Palliative Care Award and Scholarship. From their own personal family experiences of pain and loss they were inspired to give, and that gift has



Shirley McNeil (2015 Honorary Member recipient, far right) offers CHAS Honorary Membership Award to the Moolas

'Finding the Gifts' Video Series - please view and share!

In response to concerns surrounding euthanasia and assisted suicide, a series of short (< 4 minute) locally-prepared videos about "Finding the Gifts in a World of Choices" is being produced in Saskatchewan under the direction of a Saskatchewan Bishops' Advisory Committee, with particular involvement from their communications sub-committee (Kip Yaworski, Sandra Kary, Mary Deutscher, Therese Jelinski, Deborah Larmour, and Myron Rogal).

The first two videos – one focused on Palliative Care and another focused on Care for the Elderly – can be found online at: www.findingthegifts.ca or on the

CHAS website at: www.chassk.ca.

At least three more videos are anticipated in this series, with the hope that they will be shared far and wide on social media and made available for viewing at gatherings and in classrooms across the province. The site is also designed to be a repository for the best resources regarding this issue.

These videos were possible thanks to a financial grant from the Saskatchewan K of C Charitable Foundation and to the hard work of Sandra Kary, Mary Deutscher and Tim Yaworski -- and to the profound generosity of all those interviewed. Heartfelt thanks to all!

2016 Compassionate Healers Masses

Each fall, CHAS along with the Diocese of Prince Albert on September 11th, the Archdiocese of Regina



on September 13th and the Diocese of Saskatoon on October 11th host The Compassionate Healers Mass to honour health care staff, volunteers and every person who provides care to others. This celebration reminds the community at large that the ministry of health care is fundamentally an expression of the

Church's work of evangelization. Where would we be in our world without the Good Samaritan and all those who emulate his good deeds today?

Bishop Albert of Prince Albert captured beautifully the focus of our call in the healing work of Christ as he invited parishioners to look into their own lives and the people whom they are caring for: "Often the act of caring asks so much more, going deeper, going beyond what is asked even within your Christian faith. You are going after the 'lost sheep' who are

taken up by illness, vulnerability as well as taken up by loneliness and despair. You are the one who brings the healing hand of the Lord to those who are suffering, for those who are in need of even a little hope an abundance of compassion and mercy. Those people are on all of our paths. We cannot go walking around with our eyes closed. We all have uncles, aunts, parents, grandparents, neighbours, and people going through depression. We all have that 'lost sheep' that is in need of our care, our time. But today is especially about a time to – say 'thank you.'

Maybe these people who are vulnerable, are suffering, have diseases like dementia cannot say 'thank you.' We as a family of the church, we say 'thank you.' We are so proud of the silent service of God that you are doing for those who you love very dearly. Your actions are showing the Lord's presence in their lives and in your lives."



Survey: How would you like to receive your CHAS newsletter?

Dear CHAS members: In light of our recent funding cutback, CHAS is considering moving to a digital newsletter to reduce printing and postage costs.

However, we don't want to get lost in your inbox!

If you actually read and prefer e-newsletters, then would you send us an email confirming that you would like to receive your CHAS news digitally?

Please send your reply to marissa@chask.ca by **March 16, 2017**.

Thank-you!!

