

Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan 601 Taylor Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0C9
Cell 306-955-CHAS (2427) peter@chassk.ca www.chassk.ca

Convention 2023—Best Ever!

The year 2023 marks a significant milestone for the annual CHAS Convention as it **celebrates its 80th conference**. With the goal of making it the best convention yet, we spared no effort in planning an event that would bring together presenters on Catholic Health Care from across North America.

The theme of the convention, **Holistic Care: Healing through Spirit, Story, and Song**, revolves around Catholic Health Care's mission which is deeply rooted in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. This is our story!

At the top of our agenda is *authoring* this story. It is OUR STORY and that means we needed to invite presenters who would provide engaging content and vision.

Coming from Atlantic Canada, Ontario, Phoenix Arizona, Maskwacis reserve in Alberta, Regina, and Saskatoon, a stellar lineup of speakers has been assembled!

Rev. David Maginley M.Div, Cscp, Certified Spiritual Care Practitioner

John P. Ruetz, President & CEO Catholic Health Alliance of Canada

Maricela Campa, Office of Mental Health Ministry, Diocese of Phoenix

Dr. Anne Vargas-Leveriza Ph.D., Dev. Of Mental Health Ministry, Diocese of Phoenix

Chief Wilton Littlechild, lawyer, and contributor to the UN Declaration on Indigenous Rights

Fr. Ken Thorson, Provincial of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate—OMI Lacombe

Archbishop Donald Bolen, Bishop of the Archdiocese of Regina

Katelyn Roberts, BSW, MPA, Sanctum Care (hospice)

Dr. Morris Markentin, Sanctum Care (hospice)

Fr. Ivan Nahachewsky, Vicar General and Chancellor of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy

Fr. Kevin McGee, Vicar General of the Saskatoon Diocese

They will delve into subjects that are front and centre in Catholic Health and our world today:

- ◆ Spiritual Care
- ◆ Innovations in Catholic Health in Canada
- ◆ The challenges and opportunities in the journey toward Truth and Reconciliation
- ◆ Hospice Care
- ◆ Building communities that are responsive to mental health and suicide
- ◆ Meeting the needs of the marginalized
- ◆ Prayer
- ◆ The health of Ukrainians as they flee the conflict in Europe and settle in Saskatchewan
- ◆ A gospel vision of Catholic Health



Please consider a donation to support this year's convention.

By cheque, e-transfer (membership@chassk.ca) or CanadaHelps on our website. Please indicate

Convention Donation with e-transfers.

Tax receipts will be issued.

Thursday, October 26, 2023
11:30 am - 12:45 pm Registration

- 1:00 pm** Opening Gathering
1:45 pm **Keynote Rev. David Maginley**
Near Death Experiences
3:00 pm **Break**
3:15 pm Feature Presentations
A: John Ruetz
B: Maricela Campa &
Dr. Anne Vargas-Leveriza
4:15 pm **Break**
4:30 pm Awards Ceremony
5:15 pm **Fall Dinner**
7:00 pm **Chief Wilton Littlechild &**
Fr. Ken Thorson OMI

Friday, October 27, 2023

- 7:45 am** **Breakfast/AGM**
9:15 am Eucharist
Celebrant: Archbishop Donald Bolen
10:30 am **Break**
10:45 pm Feature Presentations
A: John Ruetz
B: Maricela Campa &
Dr. Anne Vargas-Leveriza
11:45 am **Lunch**
1:15 pm Breakouts (Choice of 3)
2:15 pm **Break**
2:45 pm **Keynote Rev. David Maginley**
Broken and Beautiful: Accompaniment, the
Power of Story & Compassionate Presence

Registration

Register at:
queenshouse.org



REGISTRATION

Early Bird (before noon on Oct. 13) **\$225**
After Oct. 13 (afternoon) **\$250**

Registration Deadline:
Thursday October 19 at 11pm

Includes banquet, breakfast & lunch

CANCELLATION POLICY

Notice of cancellation must be given three business days prior to the event. A **\$35.00** administration fee will apply to all refunds. Substitutions will be accepted at any time.

ACCOMMODATION

Options

Include a room at **Queen's House** with registration
\$60/night Small Single rm.
(shared washroom & shower)
Or
Reserve a room at
Home Inn & Suites **\$134/night**
253 Willis Cr. Saskatoon (7 min. drive)
ph: **306-657-4663**
CODE: Catholic Health Association
Reserve room by **Sept. 26, 2023**
Or
Sandman Hotel **\$169/night**
2815 Lorne Ave (3 min. dr.)
ph. **Okama 306-518-1855** Mo - Fr, 8-4:30pm
Code: 2310CASS.
Reserve by **Sept. 26th, 2023**



Contact

Peter Oliver p. 306-955-2427
peter@chassk.ca w. chassk.ca

REGISTER BY NOON ON OCTOBER 13TH AND SAVE \$25

CONVENTION 2023



HOLISTIC CARE

Healing Through Spirit, Story & Song

October 26 & 27

Queen's House Retreat & Renewal Centre
601 Taylor St W, Saskatoon, SK

Accommodations available at **Queen's House**
or

Home Inn & Suites Hotel or **Sandman Hotel**
see brochure at www.chassk.ca

\$225/person (Includes banquet, breakfast & lunch)

Register by Thursday October 19, 11pm

Register at: queenshouse.org

Register by noon

OCTOBER 13 and SAVE \$25



For more information visit: chassk.ca
or contact

Peter Oliver
p. 306-955-2427
peter@chassk.ca



KEYNOTE

REV. DAVID MAGINLEY
M.DIV CSPC



FEATURED PRESENTERS

JOHN RUETZ
CEO the Catholic Health
Alliance of Canada



DR. ANNE
VARGAS-LEVERIZA PH.D.



MARICELA CAMPA
Program Manager Office
of Mental Health Ministry



TRC PANEL



**EMBRACING THE CALLS
TO ACTION**

MODERATED BY SANDI HARPER

CHIEF WILTON
LITTLECHILD



FR. KEN
THORSON OMI



BREAKOUT PRESENTERS

FR. IVAN NAHACHEWSKY
FR. KEVIN MCGEE
KATELYN ROBERTS PBSW, MPA
MORRIS MARKENTIN MD

MASS CELEBRANT
ARCHBISHOP DONALD BOLEN

Compassionate Healers Mass & NCHCW

Welcome



In the world of influencers, social media and the many distractions we face daily focusing on how we tell our story is consequential.

The celebration of National Catholic Health Care Week (taking place on the first full week of Feb. each year) is one way that we can bring attention to the excellent work being done by Catholic Health both nationally and locally.

In consultation with our stakeholders we have decided to move our annual celebration of the Compassionate Healers Mass to align with NCHCW so that we can give dedicated attention to this week. NCHCW will be celebrated from Feb. 4— 10, 2024. Specific dates for the Compassionate Healers Mass will be announced following this year's Convention.



A warm welcome to Tanya Myrfield-Wolfe who has joined the CHAS team as part-time Administrative Support.

Tanya is a caring mother of three, a volunteer with her Community Association, has a

Social Work background, and provides Holistic Emotional Somatic Therapy.

She has an office at Queen's House Retreat and Renewal Centre where she works for the [Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate](#) as Administrative Support.

Contact: tanya@chassk.ca



Moral Distress—A Consideration by Mary Heilman

This year many of you asked me to speak about moral distress, the feelings of helplessness that arise when we are prevented from doing what we believe is the right thing.

When I dug into my files to prepare, I realized that I have been giving a near identical version of this talk for the past 6 years!

I reflected on this during my long drive across the prairies, and I felt a surge of pride because despite everything that they have been through, our teams are still engaged enough to be bothered by moral distress. As I listened to various stories of what is causing moral distress, I heard that the worst moments for most people are the moments when they feel isolated. The most distressing stories often started with, "it was 3 am and I was the only one on." Or they continued with, "so I reached out for help, and they told me

there was nothing they could do and hung up the phone."...

Every person has a responsibility to foster a moral community in which ethical values and challenges can be openly discussed and supported. How would our hospitals and long-term care homes look if we lived this out? How would our world look?

Consider for a moment a nurse who is alone at 3 am with a patient who is responding to her attempts to provide care in physically aggressive ways. She feels ill-equipped to manage his needs alone, and is considering transferring him to a larger centre. What could have happened before 3 am to help her feel more supported in this moment? What could happen right now to help her articulate her needs when she reaches out for help? What could happen at 7 am when the rest of the world wakes up?

Full article and more issues at SaskEthics <https://www.stpaulshospital.org/ethics/newsletter.php>

Annual Meeting Notice

The 80th AGM of the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan will be held at 7:45 am, Friday, October 27, 2023 at Queens House Retreats and Renewal Centre, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Amendments to the Catholic Health Association—Bylaw

The Board will be presenting an amended Bylaw at this AGM. A copy of the amended Bylaw and changes will be available on the CHAS website by October 12, 2023. Questions or concerns please contact: Jerry Fitzgerald—CHAS Board Chair fitzgeraj@outlook.com

The June 7th “What Matter’s Zoom” Report for Our Members

In honor of Jean Morrison’s work in Catholic Health, the “What Matter’s Zoom” engaged leaders in Catholic Health and the Catholic Community in a ***bold discussion*** about Catholic identity and Catholic Health. Moderated by Archbishop Donald Bolen, the participants were diverse in terms of organizations, specialties, and geographical locations¹, and they were highly invested in responding to the current realities within Catholic Health and the Catholic Community. The

presenters - Corey Miller, Patrick Dumelie, John Ruetz and Jean Morrison – each have significant portfolios in Catholic Health.²



The feedback from the event which required an extensive investment of organizational time (132 emails, several phone conversations, 3 Zoom meetings) was warmly received. The aspect of the event that was most meaningful to participants was storytelling, with 74% finding it impactful.

The polling questions introduced at the beginning of the event revealed that 66% of participants expressed confidence in the Catholic Church. However, 35% indicated a decrease in confidence over the last five years. Regarding the relationship between Catholic Health and the Catholic Community, 61% of participants felt it was strained, with 56% struggling and 5% in serious difficulty. Only 30% felt it was quite strong, while 9% believed it was growing stronger.

The aim of this event was to help address concerns about this relationship and the presenters were invited to respond to this question:

‘Catholic Health’s mission and identity are intimately connected to the healing ministry of Jesus Christ as expressed through the witness, pastoral care, teachings, and traditions of the Catholic Church. In Canada and around the world, the pandemic, news reports about sexual abuse and harms done by residential schools have led to a loss of trust, public scrutiny, and disengagement from the Church.

Stories drawn from our life experience often help us to make sense of these kinds of challenges. Drawing from your experience, tell a story that communicates your reason for hope as we address these difficulties.’

¹Leadership from these organizations participated: Archdiocese of Regina, Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan, Catholic Women’s League, Covenant Health, Emmanuel Health, Diocese of Prince Albert, Diocese of Saskatoon, Foyer St. Joseph Nursing Home, Hospice at Glengarda, Knights of Columbus, Marian Health Centre, St. Joseph’s Hospital, Mont St. Joseph Home, Pasqua Hospital, Providence Place for Holistic Care, Redemptorists, Santa Maria Senior Citizens Home, St. Ann’s Senior Citizens’ Village, St. Anthony’s Hospital, St. Joseph’s Hospital / Foyer d’Youville Care Home, St. Paul’s Hospital, St. Thomas More College, Trinty Mannor, Queen’s House of Retreats, Villa Pascal Special Care Home, Catholic Health Alliance of Canada.

² Corey Miller, CEO of Emmanuel Health representing 12 Catholic Health Care facility across Saskatchewan, Patrick Dumelie, Chief Executive Officer of Covenant Health, Covenant Care and Covenant Living in Alberta. Together, these organizations are one of the largest Catholic providers of health care in Canada. John Ruetz, President & CEO of the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, which brings together 14 sponsor/owners of 129 health organizations with Catholic identity in Canada & Jean Morrison, former CEO of Emmanuel Health.

The June 7th “What Matter’s Zoom” Report for Our Members

The presenters shared stories that **communicated reasons for hope** as we address challenges concerning Catholic identity and Catholic Health.

Corey Miller's presentation focused on rebuilding trust with the indigenous community through positive workforce engagement and strengthening collegial bonds within Catholic healthcare organizations and surrounding communities.

Patrick Dumelie discussed the importance of shifting from a defensive posture and becoming the authors of the narrative that drives public perception of the Catholic Church and Catholic Health. He highlighted the Catholic Bishops' focus on transparency and accountability and Covenant Health's shift in focus from “what they can’t do” to “what they can do” .

John Ruetz emphasized the limitations in secular perceptions of Catholic healthcare and the core responsibility of Catholic Health Care to respond to unmet needs and attend to the most vulnerable. He shared a story of the Sisters of Providence's community needs assessment and the transformation of their Mother house into a facility for long-term care, hospice, and mental health patients.

Jean Morrison highlighted the importance of working from a non-judgmental stance, compassionate care, social justice, and respect for all. She emphasized the value of humility, transparency, and celebrating who we are. She shared a story about the recognition of protective service workers and Bishop Mark Hegemon's presence as an important point of connection between the Catholic community and Catholic Health.

In summary, the presentations revolved around rebuilding trust, taking ownership of the narrative, addressing unmet needs, showing compassion, promoting social justice, and involving the Catholic community in healthcare efforts.

The polling results at the end of the Zoom (**87% indicating the Zoom helped them think about the relationship between the Catholic Church and Catholic Health and 85% indicating they felt encouraged, intrigued, or blessed by the event**) suggests this event responded to concerns about the relationship between the Church and Catholic Health.

Some final directional comments:

1. The feedback indicates a strong interest in the relationship between the Catholic Church and Catholic Health.
2. There is a foundation of goodwill and positive attitude toward the Church in the leadership that was gathered but there are also concerns about the strength of the relationship between Catholic Health and the Catholic Community.
3. The responses from the participants and presenters provides important feedback about the life, practices and commitments of Catholic Health and the Catholic Community that need attention and can be built upon.
4. Finally, the satisfaction with this event indicates that CHAS can play an important role in assisting Catholic Health and the Catholic Community as they seek to meet the common challenges they face.

Author: Peter Oliver, Executive Director of the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan