



Minutes of the Fourth Annual General Meeting

April 23, 2019

1. **Opening Prayer:** Bishop Thomas Dowd

2. **Song:** Bradley Cooper-Graham - "I Will Follow" by Chris Tomlin

3. **Adoption of the Agenda:**

Anna Graham, chairperson of the Board of Directors of Catholic Action Montreal welcomed the members in attendance. She introduced the member of the Catholic Action Board of Directors. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Diane Doonan and seconded by Judy Wong. The motion was duly approved.

4. **Minutes of the Third Annual General Meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes of the last AGM was made by John Bondyra and seconded by Helen Ryan -Surette. The motion was duly approved.

5. **Annual Report**

Anna Graham, chairperson, provided an Annual Report of activities of 2017-2018 (See attached). Some highlights:

- Increased collaboration with people and other organizations
- One of our goals was to expand those registering with our expertise portal, this has doubled.
- Membership for CA is now at 192 people, with the hope that we might be close to 200 after tonight's AGM.
- LSM continues to thrive.
- We have increased the number of individuals and groups we have connected with
- Anna thanked the CA membership on behalf of the Board for their support.
- Pledged to continue to be His hands and feet in the world.

Judy Wong- Executive Director of Catholic Action expanded on some of the projects that we have been involved in this year:

- 62 People signed up to attend the AGM tonight
- Asylum seekers project to support Le Pont has shifted into creating a team/round table that can share resources. Community networking for supplies and resources. Tapping into services that are available - ex: an app that keeps track of what facilities, resources are available for newcomers. This was shared with members of the Round Table.

- Isolated Seniors Project – in collaboration with Fr. Dowd Foundation and ESCC, gathering those who work with English speaking seniors and asked what training they would need. CA helped gather them for three training sessions held this year.
- Camp Kinkora- Collaboration with FCCS in building a senior's trail. Having the bus bring seniors to Kinkora for day trips. Testimonies from St Columba house were mentioned.
- Afghan women project (witness to follow)
- Centre for Reproductive Loss- Kathleen Gray. Working on a succession plan to hand over this work to a new person.
- Responsible Pastoral Ministry, Le Pont, Faith Education, LaSalle D&D, Camp Erin (Camp for bereaved children), QCGN, Peter McGill Halloween Initiative, RECCA (Senior's Abuse awareness drama group) were all mentioned as collaborations this year.

6. Financial Report

Patrick Gillespie, Treasurer, provided a financial review (see attached) which was prepared by Fuller Landau. The large difference in our income is attributed to the change in contribution from the Archdiocese. The members approved that we do not require audited statements at this time.

7. Board Member updates

Anna Graham reported that all Board members have agreed to continue for 2019-2020 except for Alisha Ruiss, who will leave to pursue her projects in Evangelization and the Arts. We are looking at expanding our Board to help us grow in particular areas, for example, communications.

8. Song: Bradley Cooper-Graham- "Lifesong" by Casting Crowns

Bishop Tom spontaneously offered a word of thanks to all involved and commented that there was a lot of heart in the report and how good it was to see hearts come together!

9. Speaker: Michael Udy and Vanessa Harrett – Seniors Action Quebec

SAQ has been around since 2012- English speaking seniors make up about 13% of the provincial network. The mission of SAQ is to promote strategies to support English Speaking Seniors. They have been involved in 4 projects since 2012. GPS for Seniors has been the biggest project aimed at accessing programs for seniors. 21 volunteers in 6 communities reached 99 isolated seniors. They had some success with project funding but no success with core funding until 2018. Trying to build a network among organizations. Upcoming conferences on Housing and Geriatric professional and seniors' needs. SAQ is partnership oriented and its link with CA is in support of Catholic Actions regional leadership with regard to English speaking seniors.

10. Speaker: Makai Haref – Afghan Women's Center of Montreal

The Afghan Women's Centre of Montreal is dedicated to improving the life of Afghan women. Catholic Action involvement with AWC involved helping them to find office space at the Catholic Centre, managing meetings and events, helping with design of their logo, helping them run their first Annual General Meeting, CA ran a workshop for them, arranged for some of the women to

go to Camp Kinkora (which was restorative for many) and linked them with the New Horizons for Seniors Program.

11. Speaker: Marcello Tabadao

Marcello spoke about his volunteer work through CA of giving financial training to asylum seekers. He teaches newcomers to Canada how the Canadian financial system works (i.e: how to open a bank account, credit cards, buying a car, house, how to budget)

12. Speaker: Paul Donovan, CA Board of Directors

Our faith is alive, it engages everyday life. This is what Catholic Action is all about. Catholic Action's first task is to connect to the community- to find out what the needs are. The next task is to support the works. Paul offered a PowerPoint presentation on the vision of Catholic Action.

13. Question Period:

Donald Bidd- What are the top three needs of Catholics in need in relation to the scope of Catholic Action?

Anna Graham: we are discovering our needs as we go. For example: one of the first needs discovered was support for Le Pont and asylum seekers.

Bishop Dowd: CA brings together temporal/ material and spiritual needs. The two needs come together in CA.

Paul Donovan: Let the need identify itself so that CA can respond. CA doesn't decide what the needs are.

Donald Bidd- CA Requires a strategic plan because it is the only way you know how/what you are doing and ensure continuity. Audience member would like access to Minutes of CA meetings.

Bishop Dowd: in agreement about the strategic plan

Anna Graham: we will look into access to the Minutes

Judy Wong: still in need of two beds at Le Pont; Briana to volunteer at FCCS (Foundation of Catholic Community Services)

14. Closing remarks

- Anna Graham, Chairperson of the Board thanked the members for their participation and closed the meeting