Father Henri Légaré was born February 20, 1918 in Willow Bunch, Saskatchewan and was ordained on June 29, 1943. He was the first person to occupy the new position of Executive Director. During his tenure, in 1952, the name of the association was changed to the Catholic Hospital Association of Canada.
Monsignor Francis Joseph Smyth was born in Sydney, Nova Scotia on March 8, 1917, the son of James Smyth and Annie Gough. He received a B.A. from Saint Francis Xavier University in 1940, an Honours Degree in Economics in 1941 and a Masters of Arts degree in Sociology from Notre Dame in 1955. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Antigonish on May 10, 1945 and was appointed to the teaching staff of St. Francis Xavier University. In 1955 he was appointed to the CCCB in Ottawa as Director of Social Action. In 1960 he became the Director of the Coady International Institute at St. Francis Xavier University, and it was during this time that he was elected as a board member for the Catholic Hospital Association of Canada. He served as the Executive Director of the CHAC from 1956-1958 and was chair of the CHAC board in 1963. He continued his association with Saint Francis Xavier University serving as Director of Funding Services in 1972 and appointed to the Board of Governors in 1974. He died in St. Martha’s Hospital, Antigonish on June 3, 1995.
A native of Cornwall, Ontario, Father Danis was ordained a priest in 1930 having completed studies in philosophy, canon law and theology. In 1945, the University of Ottawa entrusted him with the establishment of its Faculty of Medicine, and in 1957 he rendered the same service for the “Common Law” section of the Faculty of Law. While dean of these faculties he lectured respectively in medical ethics and case law.

As Executive Director of the CHAC he initiated the publishing of the Bulletin later to be named the CHAC Review. At the time the CHAC office was located in two small rooms at the Catholic Centre of the University of Ottawa at 1 Stewart Street. Under his direction the CHAC purchased 312 Daly Avenue in 1960 and remained there until 1987.
A Franco-Manitoban, Rev. Maurice Dussault was born in 1904. He served as a military chaplain during World War II and was later appointed chaplain of the general hospital in Winnipeg. He founded the Association of Hospital Chaplains of Manitoba and later became the president of the Association of Catholic Chaplains of Canadian Hospitals. As Executive Director of the CHAC he set up a committee to revise the Moral Code and publish the Medico-Moral Guide in 1970. Fr. Dussault died in 1989.
Rev. Norman Andries was previously a member of the CHAC board from 1969–1971 and acted as board chair for less than a month in October, 1971. His administration career in the health care field was complemented by a lifelong commitment to the work of hospital chaplaincy. At different times Father Andries served as president of the Catholic Chaplains Association of Canada, president of the Catholic Chaplains Association of Saskatchewan, chaplain and bishop’s representative to the Catholic Hospital Conference of Saskatchewan, chaplain at the Grey Nuns’ Hospital in Regina and national president of the Catholic Chaplains Training Programme. He was a member of the CHAC committee to prepare a new hospital code of ethics, the Medico-Moral Guide published in 1970.
Having already served as a member of the CHAC board of directors in 1971, Rev. Jean-Marc Daoust assumed the role of Executive Director in October, 1976 when the association was called the Catholic Hospital Association of Canada. His primary contribution was to initiate and implement the recommendations of the Task Force report written by Sister Louise Demers, CSJ.
Rev. Everett MacNeil
1978 – 1993

A native of Sydney, Nova Scotia, Rev. Everett MacNeil was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Antigonish on June 7, 1952. He received a B.A. from St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, a M.A. in History from Notre Dame University and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Toronto. Prior to coming to the CHAC he taught history for nine years at St. Francis Xavier University, was Chancellor of the Diocese of Antigonish for three years, and was, for eleven years, in executive positions with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

1981 was the last year that the chairman of the CHAC Board was identified using the title “President.” It was also the last year that Fr. Everett MacNeil was called the “Executive Director.” From 1982 onwards, the Executive Director of the Catholic Health Association of Canada was called the President. The head of the CHAC Board was now called “Chairman” or “Chairperson.”
Richard Haughian obtained a Doctorate from the Gregorian University in Rome and a Masters of Theology degree from Regis College in Toronto. He has taught both at the high school and university levels. Richard joined the CHAC in 1981 as Director of Education and has been active in giving retreats and presentations to boards of directors and CEO’s of various health, social service and educational organizations. He became President of the CHAC in 1993. During his tenure he was instrumental in producing and promoting CHAC publications on health, ethics and mission integration; he encouraged an advocacy role for the CHAC in order to influence public policy on health issues; he saw the introduction of the CHAC web site; and was influential in initiating a National Dialogue on a preferred future for the Catholic health care ministry in Canada.
Interim Executive Director

Mr. James W. Roche
December 2004 – June 2005

James Roche obtained a degree in history from Carleton University in Ottawa (1980) and a degree in theology from the University of Ottawa (1984). From 1978 to 1991 he was a member of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, during which time he was engaged in ministry with aboriginal peoples in northern Canada. James joined the CHAC in 1994 as a researcher/writer. In that role he authored several CHAC publications and was a member of the steering committee responsible for the development of the CHAC Health Ethics Guide, which was published in 2000. He assumed the position of Interim Executive Director from December 2004 until June 2005.
Prior to becoming President and CEO of the Catholic Health Association of Canada, Mr. Gerard W. Lewis was a management consultant, Director of Marketing with the Canadian Bar Association, and enjoyed a 23-year career in museum management with the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the National Museums of Canada. A consultant since 1997, he has displayed special talents as a process facilitator, and strategic policy analyst. Mr. Lewis brings a unique blend of public sector management, and association marketing background along with a breadth of senior management consulting experience successfully delivered over the past 32 years. In his personal life, Mr. Lewis has served as President of L’Arche Ottawa, an organization that operates seven homes for 30 individuals with developmental disabilities. He is married to Louise Matte-Lewis; both are native to Ottawa where they continue to make their home. Mr. Lewis will take up the position of President and CEO on June 1, 2005.
James Roche obtained a degree in history from Carleton University in Ottawa (1980) and a degree in theology from the University of Ottawa (1984). From 1978 to 1991 he was a member of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, during which time he was engaged in ministry with aboriginal peoples in northern Canada. James joined the CHAC in 1994 as a researcher/writer. In that role he authored several CHAC publications and was a member of the steering committee responsible for the development of the revised CHAC Health Ethics Guide, which was published in 2000. He assumed the position of Interim Executive Director from December 2004 until June 2005. In 2005 he was appointed CHAC Vice President – Ethics, Advocacy and Public Policy. In this role he was primarily responsible for directing the advocacy activities of the Association and its efforts as the national voice for Catholic health care. In 2008 he became President of the CHAC. His first task was to work with the Board in a strategic planning process that involved a review of the structures that exist at the national level to support the mission and ministry of Catholic health care in Canada.