



The *Great* Canadian
Catholic Hospital History Project

Documenting the legacy and contribution of the
Congregations of Religious Women in Canada,
their mission in health care, and the founding and operation of Catholic hospitals.



Projet de la *Grande* Histoire
des hôpitaux catholiques au Canada

Retracer l'héritage et la contribution des
congrégations de religieuses au Canada,
leur mission en matière de soins de santé ainsi que la fondation et l'exploitation des hôpitaux catholiques.

Atlantic Conference of Catholic Hospitals
(formerly Maritime Conference of the
Catholic Hospital Association)

Souvenir Booklet, Golden Jubilee
Catholic Hospital Association
1915-1965

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ATLANTIC CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC HOSPITALS

(FORMERLY MARITIME CONFERENCE OF THE CATHOLIC HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION)



SOUVENIR BOOKLET

GOLDEN JUBILEE — CATHOLIC HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

1915 - 1965

FOREWORD

When after World War I Catholic hospitals in the Maritimes were facing many problems, new and old, the need for organization became obvious and circumstances provided the opportunity. The Maritime Conference of the Catholic Hospital Association came into being, and accepted the challenge presented by these problems.

Chesterton's judgment of the age that invented the loudspeaker and then found that it had nothing to say, finds a contradiction in the Conference. For more than forty years it has been an active and effective voice in pressing for and finding solutions to hospital problems, always with the objective of the Christian apostolate in view.

Today, under a new name that happily includes the Province of Newfoundland, the Atlantic Conference of Catholic Hospitals still shoulders responsibility for the organized policy of Catholic hospitals in this region. With the recent admission of six allied agencies as Associate Members, the Conference hopefully expects to extend its services.

The support and assistance of the Hierarchy, the Clergy, the Medical Profession, and various groups of interested persons, have enhanced the contribution of the Conference to the progress of hospitals in this area, and are deeply appreciated.

At this time of renewal in the Church it is opportune to recall the story of our Conference with the object of re-affirming our purposes and maintaining a "prospective attitude" to the problems and opportunities that confront our Catholic hospitals.

SISTER AUDET, r.h.s.j.
Honorary President.

May 18, 1965.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

In 1922 the first Catholic Hospital Association in Canada was organized by the Catholic hospitals of the then three Eastern provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. When Newfoundland joined Canada, its hospitals were added to the membership, and the organization known as the Maritime Conference of the Catholic Hospital Association became the Atlantic Conference of Catholic Hospitals.

At that time a meeting of the American College of Surgeons was held in Halifax. On May 18, 1922, Father C. B. Moulinier, S.J., founder of the Catholic Hospital Association who was attending the meeting met with Sisters from the three provinces at St. Joseph's Convent. Since that date the history of both Catholic and lay hospitals has been profoundly influenced by the two enthusiastic and brilliant sisters who were the prime movers in the formation of the Conference—Mother Audet who was then at Hotel Dieu, Campbellton, New Brunswick, and Sister M. Ignatius, then at St. Joseph's Hospital, Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.

Being the only Catholic hospital organization in Canada for ten years, the Conference was privileged to have the special encouragement and guidance of such other eminent personalities as Dr. Malcolm MacEachern, Rev. Edward Garesche, S.J., Dr. Harvey Agnew, Mr. M. R. Kneifl, and Rev. Alphonse Schwitalla, S.J.

In the early years of the Conference when the superiors were urged especially to get sisters trained to supervise the various hospital departments, participation by sisters in university courses became commonplace. With the co-operation of her community of Sisters of Charity, Sister Anna Seton made an exceptionally fine contribution to the cause by making readily available the special training facilities of Halifax Infirmary to sisters from many hospitals.

The 1931 convention at Campbellton, N.B. decided to take what would now be termed an "ecumenical" step when it sent delegates to the inaugural meeting of the Canadian Hospital Council in Toronto, and the Maritime Conference became a constituent member of the Council (in 1953, the Canadian Hospital Association).

The Maritime Conference later joined with other Canadian Conferences to form the Catholic Hospital Council of Canada (1945) which became the Catholic Hospital Association of Canada with headquarters in Ottawa. The Conference also sponsored the formation of the Maritime Council of Catholic Nurses in 1935 which has been developed almost independently by the nurses and has proved an effective instrument for promoting Christian ideals and maintaining professional standards.

The Conference has always enjoyed the support of the Bishops of the Maritime Provinces. Through their interest, the Catholic hospitals have benefited from the guidance of outstanding Spiritual Directors who have been the ecclesiastical representatives to the Conference. Well remembered are the Most Rev. John R. MacDonald, late Bishop of Antigonish; Rev. F. M. Lochary, Saint John, N.B.; Rev. John E. Burns, Ph.D., Halifax, N.S.; and Rev. R. J. Williams, M.D., Chatham, N.B.

For the past nineteen years Rev. J. B. Nearing, Sydney, N.S. has assisted the Conference in the office of Spiritual Director and Chairman of the Legislation Committee. Father Nearing has recently been succeeded by Rev. Ernest Chiasson, Chaplain of St. Joseph's Hospital, Glace Bay, N.S. Both of these priests have had much experience in hospital association work, and have contributed a great deal to the formation of policy on both the regional and national level.

The great concern of the Conference for the promotion of the voluntary hospital system and for the independence of both sister-controlled and lay hospitals has highlighted the Conference's annual proceedings. For

over thirty years the records show a serious awareness of the dangers of state control, and the necessity of preserving identity and freedom in all arrangements with governments at all levels.

The tremendous efforts and support of the Conference and its members in the developing of voluntary pre-paid Hospital Plans and the backing of the formation of the Maritime Hospital Association afford good examples of the wide interests of the Conference. The activity of the Conference in the formation of the Blue Cross Plan in 1943 and its continued direction and co-operation with other hospital and private plans helped in no small measure to lay down the basic principles which were later incorporated into the provincial government plans of the Atlantic area.

The long history of the Conference's promotion of the ideals of hospital accreditation is perhaps its most outstanding and most successful achievement. When Mother Audet and Sister Ignatius first campaigned so vigorously for high quality Catholic hospitals only eleven hospitals with 541 beds made up the 1922 membership. From this modest beginning grew the twenty-seven hospitals with bed capacity of 3547 of today's membership. Twenty-one of these hospitals—representing 80% of members and over 90% of total beds—carry the stamp of standard accreditation, a record of which we are all proud.



MOTHER M. IGNATIUS
The Congregation of St. Martha
Antigonish, Nova Scotia

Mother Mary Ignatius (Floyd), who died at Antigonish May 10, 1964, initiated in Nova Scotia the movement toward organization of Catholic hospitals which merged with a similar one in New Brunswick under Mother Audet's guidance to form the Maritime Conference of the Catholic Hospital Association in 1922.

In 1956 the Canadian Hospital Association named Mother Ignatius recipient of the George Findlay Stephens Memorial Award. She was the first woman, the first Maritimer, and the first Sister to receive it.



MOTHER AUDET

Religious Hospitaller of St. Joseph
Campbellton, N.B.

Mother Audet assisted in the formation of the Atlantic Conference (then the Maritime Conference) in Halifax in 1922, and served as its first secretary. In succeeding years she held many executive positions in this and in other hospital organizations. In 1937 she earned a Fellowship in the American College of Hospital Administrators and is presently a member of its Region 18, Canada.

In 1964 Mother Audet celebrated her Golden Jubilee as a Sister, and was named Honorary President of the Atlantic Conference of Catholic Hospitals at its Fortieth Annual Meeting.

DELEGATES AND GUESTS —

CAMPBELLTOWN



FRONT ROW : Sister St. Stanislaus, Chatham, N.B.; Sister Catherine Gerard, Halifax, Mother Ignatius, Antigonish; Mother Paula, Charlottetown; Sister Ste. Therese, President, Vallée Lourdes, N.B.; Sister Anna Seton, Halifax; Sister M. Veronica, Saint John, Sister Catherine Monica, North Sydney; Sister Kerr, Perth, N.B.

SILVER JUBILEE CONVENTION

N. N. B. — 1947



Members of the original Executive of 1922 present also in the picture are Sister Audet, Campbellton and Sister Ste. Gertrude, Quebec (formerly superior of Charlottetown Hospital).

DELEGATES AND GUESTS — SILVER JUBILEE CONVENTION

CAMPBELLTON, N. B. — 1947



FRONT ROW: Sister St. Stanislaus, Chatham, N.B.; Sister Catherine Gerard, Halifax, Mother Ignatius, Antigonish; Mother Paula, Charlottetown; Sister St. Therese, President, Vallée Lourdes, N.B.; Sister Anna Seton, Halifax; Sister M. Veronica, Saint John, Sister Catherine Monica, North Sydney; Sister Kerr, Perth, N.B.

Members of the original Executive of 1922 present also in the picture are Sister Audet, Campbellton and Sister St. Gertrude, Quebec (formerly superior of Charlottetown Hospital).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

May, 1965

Spiritual DirectorRev. E. Chiasson, Glace Bay, N.S.
PresidentSr. Mary Ursula, Ch'town, P.E.I.
1st Vice PresidentSr. Catherine Gerard, Halifax, N.S.
2nd Vice PresidentSr. St. Joseph, Campbellton, N.B.
3rd Vice PresidentSr. Mary Fabian, St. John's, Nfld.
Secretary-TreasurerSr. Marie Monica, Ch'town, P.E.I.

COUNCIL OF THE EXECUTIVE

Past PresidentSr. Mary Ruth, Saint John, N.B.
Sr. Mary XavieriusSt. John's, Newfoundland
Sr. Maria LoyolaAntigonish, N.S.
Sr. SaulnierVallee Lourdes, N.B.
Sr. St. GeorgesSt. Basile, N.B.
Sr. O'KeefeChatham, N.B.
Sr. Pierre VincentDalhousie, N.B.
Sr. M. AneasSydney, N.S.
Sr. Catherine CharlesNorth Sydney, N.S.
Sr. Thomas JosephHalifax, N.S.
Sr. L. GodinBathurst, N.B.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

Mother Faustina, Antigonish	1922
Sister Ignatius, Glace Bay	1923
Sister Carroll, Campbellton	1924
Sister Anna Seton, Halifax	1925
Mother Audet, Campbellton	1926, 1927
Sister Camillus, Saint John	1928
Sister M. of the Sacred Heart, Inverness	1929
Sister Kenny, Chatham	1930, 1931
Sister Beatrice, Antigonish	1932, 1933
Sister Kerr, Campbellton	1934
Sister Josepha, North Sydney	1935, 1936, 1937
Sister Paul of the Cross, Glace Bay	1938, 1939
Sister John Baptist, Charlottetown	1940, 1941
Sister St. Stanislaus, Chatham	1942, 1943
Mother Immaculata, Antigonish	1944, 1945
Mother St. Therese, Campbellton	1946, 1947
Sister Marion Estelle, North Sydney	1948
Sister Kenny, Chatham	1949, 1950
Sister Francis de Paul, Halifax	1951, 1952
Sister St. Hugh, Charlottetown	1953 1954
Sister Kerr, Vallee Lourdes	1955, 1956
Sister M. Clarissa, Antigonish	1957, 1958
Sister M. Fabian, St. John's, Nfld.	1959, 1960
Sister Mary Ruth, Saint John	1961, 1962
Sister Mary Ursula, Charlottetown ..	1963, 1964

CONVENTION SITES

1922—Halifax	1947—Campbellton (Silver Jubilee)
1923—Saint John	1948—St. Andrews By-the-sea
1924—Charlottetown	1949—Halifax
1925—Halifax	1950—Charlottetown
1926—Antigonish	1951—Antigonish
1928—Charlottetown	1952—St. Andrews By-the-sea
1929—Moncton	1953—Moncton
1930—Sydney	1954—Saint John
1931—Campbellton	1955—Moncton
1932—Saint John	1956—Moncton
1934—Halifax	1957—Moncton
1935—Chatham	1958—Moncton
1936—Truro	1959—Moncton
1937—Halifax	1960—Moncton
1938—Halifax	1961—St. John's, Nfld.
1939—Charlottetown	1962—Moncton
1940—Glace Bay	1963—Moncton
1941—Halifax	1964—Charlottetown
1942—Chatham	1965—Moncton
1943—Antigonish	
1944—Saint John	
1945—Charlottetown	
1946—Yarmouth	

IMPORTANT DATES

1922—Organization at Halifax by Rev. C. B. Moulinier, S.J.

President —Mother Faustina, Antigonish
Vice-President —Sister Anna Seton, Halifax
2nd. Vice-Pres.—Sister Gertrude, Saint John
3rd. Vice-Pres.—Sister St. Gertrude, Charlottetown
Secretary —Sister Audet, Campbellton
Executive
Committee —Mother Dwyer, Chatham
Sister Irenaeus, North Sydney
Sister Ignatius, Glace Bay

1923—Convention in Saint John attended by Rev. C. B. Moulinier, S.J. and Dr. Malcolm MacEachern.

1928—Convention at Charlottetown attended by Dr. Harvey Agnew. Sisters participated in summer courses at Dalhousie University.

1929—At Moncton meeting, Rev. E. Garesche, S.J. advocated the formation of nurses' guilds.

First summer school course at St. F.X. University.

1931—At Campbellton, N.B., Dr. Harvey Agnew's plan for the Canadian Hospital Council was approved by the Conference; and Maritime Conference participation in it was approved by the President of the Catholic Hospital Association, Rev. A. M. Schwitalla, S.J.

1932-

1933—Other Provincial Conferences of the Catholic Hospital Association were organized across Canada through the activity of Father Schwitalla—all the Conferences so organized having representation in the Canadian Hospital Council (later the Canadian Hospital Association).

1933—Inaugural meeting of the Canadian Hospital Council on September 28. Rev. R. J. William, M.D. and Mother Audet members of the first executive.

1934—At Winnipeg meeting of the Canadian Hospital Council, a Council on Nursing Education was organized by the Catholic Conferences of Canada.

1935—At convention in Chatham, N.B., the Maritime Council of Catholic Nurses organized by the Maritime Conference held its inaugural meeting.

The Maritime Conference requested the formation of an Executive Committee of the Catholic Hospital Association for Canada.

1937—Silver Jubilee of the Maritime Conference of the Catholic Hospital Association observed at Campbellton, New Brunswick with many of the original Executive present.

1941—Formation of Committee by the Conference to study Group Hospitalization.

1942—Amalgamation of Provincial Associations to form the Maritime Hospital Association. Dr. J. A. McMillan, Charlottetown was first president.

1943—Endorsation of Group Hospitalization Plan (Blue Cross) sponsored by the Maritime Hospital Association.

Episcopal Commission for Hospitals created by the Canadian Episcopate.

1944—Appeal by Conference to superiors of religious orders conducting hospitals throughout Canada for participation by Sisters in all hospital associations.

Detailed study of "contributed services" in Catholic hospitals initiated by special committee of the Conference.

1946—Rev. J. B. Nearing, Sydney, succeeded Rev. John E. Burns as Spiritual Director.

1948—Support given to efforts of the Maritime Hospital Association to standardize accounting systems in hospitals of the Maritime Provinces.

1949—Decision to remain united to the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada.

1950—Newfoundland invited to join the Conference.

Episcopal Commission requested formation of Committee of Bishops' representatives, one priest being nominated by each of the eight Conferences and appointed by his Ordinary.

1951—Convention at Antigonish attended by Rev. John J. Flanagan, S.J., Executive Director of the Catholic Hospital Association.

1952—The Maritime Conference made detailed and comprehensive recommendations for the organization of the Catholic Hospital Council of Canada on the pattern of the Catholic Hospital Association.

1954—Delegates from St. Clare's Mercy Hospital, St. John's, Newfoundland, first registered for Maritime Conference Convention, held this year in Saint John, New Brunswick.

The Catholic Hospital Council of Canada re-organized as the Catholic Hospital Association of Canada, becoming virtually autonomous, while retaining a liaison with the Catholic Hospital Association which provides Catholic hospitals in Canada with many of the services of the American body.

1955—Medico-Moral Institute sponsored by Maritime Conference and conducted at Moncton, N.B. by Rev. Gerald Kelly, S.J.

1956—Reverend Mother Ignatius, C.S.M., Antigonish, Nova Scotia, co-founder of the Maritime Conference, received the George Findlay Stephens Memorial Award.

Survey and study of "Spiritual Orientation" in Catholic Hospitals of the Maritimes by Rev. E. Chiasson.

1958—Associations of Chaplains formed in Antigonish and (jointly) in the Dioceses of Moncton and Bathurst.

"Bill 320" first discussed.

1959—The Conference and its hospitals urged by the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops to study the social doctrine of the Church, and to apply it.

1961—Inservice Education and Nursing Education workshops conducted in conjunction with the Annual Meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland, by Sister Agnita Claire, SSM, and Sister Mary Emeline, SSM of Saint Louis, Missouri.

1962—The name, "Maritime Conference of the Catholic Hospital Association" changed to "Atlantic Conference."

1964—Sister Catherine Gerard, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Sister Mary Ruth, Saint John, New Brunswick, both members of the Executive of the Atlantic Conference, elected Regents of the American College of Hospital Administrators for their respective regions.

Mother Audet and Sister Carroll, R.H.S.J. celebrated their golden jubilees at Campbellton.

COVER PICTURE — HALIFAX INFIRMARY
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Halifax was location of
Organization of the
Conference.