



**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.

**A Mission of Caring:
Catholic Health Association of Alberta,
A Chronicle of the First Fifty Years
1943 - 1991**

by
Sister Therese Castonguay, SGM

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A MISSION OF CARING

CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA
A CHRONICLE OF THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS



SISTER THERESE CASTONGUAY, S.G.M.

Sister Therese Castonguay, s.g.m.

**A MISSION
OF CARING**

1943 - 1991

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DEDICATION

To Saint Marguerite d'Youville, first Canadian-born to be canonized. Her great desire to serve God in others led her to found the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, Grey Nuns, for the service of the poor, the sick and the needy.

Her tradition of service and charity is continued in her spiritual daughters. This charity brought them to Alberta in 1859. Many Grey Nuns became part of the Catholic Health Association of Alberta (CHAA) history.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The length of a list of acknowledgements can indicate either or both of the following: the limitations of the author and/or the marvellous expertise, interest and selfless dedication of a number of people who make a project possible. My list of "Thank You" grew consistently during the writing of *A MISSION OF CARING* and now that the project is completed, I am overwhelmed when I recognize my debt of gratitude so evident in every page side by side with obvious limitations which are all mine

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- Sister F. Wylie, Provincial Superior, and her Council who provided me with time, space and support in the pursuit of this project.

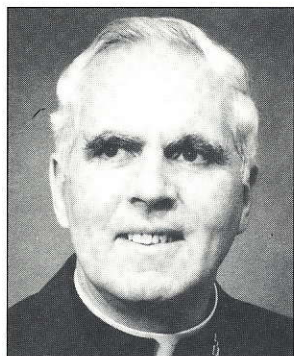
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- V. Boisvert who so carefully deciphered my handwriting.
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PREFACE



A Mission of Caring. What a beautiful title and how expressive of the reality which unfolds through these pages. A Mission of Caring - called forth by God through the Voice of the Church and sent to cure, comfort, serve those in need, in God's name. This chronicle of the first fifty years of the Catholic Health Association of Alberta is no mere statistical review. Each page is alive with the spirit that imbued the Catholic Hospitals process and their successors in each decade.

Since all these early hospitals were established by courageous missionary communities of women religious from France, England, Quebec and Ontario, much of the initiative in setting up an organization for the Catholic hospitals in Alberta came from those women. They were encouraged and assisted by far - seeing bishops concerned about the spiritual and material needs of the people.

The Catholic people of Alberta, especially owe a great debt of gratitude to Sister Therese Castonguay. She has preserved for us an integral part of our history which could easily have been lost. Sister Therese is no mere chronicler. She played (and still plays) a significant role in the life and development of the Catholic Health Association of Alberta.

As one reads these pages, it is fascinating to realize that one sees the evolution not only of Catholic hospitals in Alberta, but of hospital care in Alberta and indeed in Canada.

We are given glimpses of concerns relative to acceptance of Catholic hospitals by Governments. We see the struggles relative to hospital insurance, Canada Pension Plan, provisions of chapels in hospitals, funding, nurses, training, etc.. The minutes of some meetings could have a 1991 date on them for they reflected discussions on the closing of hospitals, relationship with government, the training of hospital chaplains, medical moral problems, liaison with the bishops, involvement of the laity.

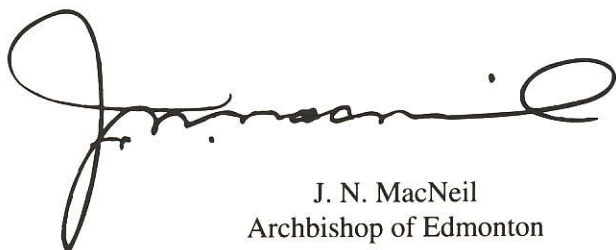
It is intriguing to chart how the Sisters in various ways began to make use of the commitment and expertise of lay people, in the medical staff, on administration, on boards of management, on boards of directors. The present

collaborative arrangement between communities of women religious and lay people at all levels of administration is a splendid example of the evolution of the Church in this province. In some instances the religious communities have handed over to lay people the total responsibility for the running of the hospitals.

It was of special interest to me to realize that women religious in the 1970's faced with hospital closures searched for a mechanism to allow a hospital to continue to serve as a Catholic Volunteer Hospital after the founding religious community could no longer provide the required devotion. Out of this yearning was born the Catholic Hospitals Foundation of Alberta, the very mechanism hoped for by many.

Another evolution which is documented in these pages is that of the development of pastoral care in the Catholic hospitals. This is another example of a dynamic Church constantly alert to adapt to the needs of the times.

This booklet is an important contribution documenting the lived experience of the Church in Alberta.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. N. MacNeil', with a large, stylized initial 'J' and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

J. N. MacNeil
Archbishop of Edmonton

December 24, 1990.

INTRODUCTION

Fifty years of existence is a short life for an Association. Yet the life and experience of such a small group as the Catholic Health Association of Alberta represent a fascinating cumulation of events which a golden anniversary calls forth in celebration.

This history goes back to "Our Predecessors". Beginning in the early 1900's, it shows why and how C.H.A.A. was founded in 1943. The history then goes through five decades of achievements, crises and hopes. It does so in a succinct, factual style so that as many of the facts as possible are preserved. It does not attempt to come close to any other literary style. A choice was made obviating any other alternatives.

Throughout this chronicle, the author has considered several ways of giving credit to the many religious congregations who made these fifty years of history. Identifying each sister by the name or initials of her congregation might have been too cumbersome within the text. Instead it was decided to identify in the Index, the congregation with the sisters' names whenever this was known. The reader is invited to consult this source.

The research and writing of this history has been a source of admiration for those who lit the flame many decades ago, and for those who have kept it bright and alive for a 50th anniversary jubilee.

Therese Castonguay, s.g.m.

CHAPTER I OUR PREDECESSORS

C.H.A.A. Charter - First Convention for Sisters -
World War I ends - Sisters attended Conventions in
U.S.A. - Father C. Moulinier came West - Decision to
form a multi-provincial Conference.

The Catholic Health Association of Alberta (CHAA) celebrates its fiftieth year of existence in 1993. Its Founding Charter dates back to June 4, 1943. Unbeknown to today's beneficiaries of CHAA, however, are the many decades of struggles and heroic efforts of the early members towards the founding of a provincial Catholic organization. Some of these events will be briefly recorded in the following pages.

In March, 1917, the Chronicles from Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary announced that Sister Catherine Duckett was responsible for organizing the "first convention for Sisters" missioned in hospital work. The convention was held in Edmonton during the month of July of that year, and was attended by twenty-five Grey Nuns (1). When we recall that this was during World War I, we are impressed by such a progressive event. However, this convention was not repeated in 1918. Instead, on November 11, 1918, the tolling of church bells and the unfurling of flags announced peace after four years of conflict. The following year, on March 22, 1919, nine hundred soldiers returned to Edmonton from the War (2). Many of these soldiers needed health care and hospitalization, and the hospital Sisters were kept very busy in their respective areas organizing for their care.

LEARNING FROM THE UNITED STATES

In July, 1919, Sister C. Duckett attended the Catholic Hospitals Convention. The Chronicles gave no details as to which Association she was attending, nor the place where the convention was held. (During the following years however, a Convention of the Catholic hospitals in the United States was held in June or July, so it can be concluded that this was the kind of convention Sr. C. Duckett attended.) Then, on October 20 of that year, two Sisters from Holy Cross Hospital went to Edmonton for the Nurses' Convention and the Alberta Hospitals Convention (3). The Alberta Registered Nurses' Association was founded in 1916 (4) and the Alberta Hospitals Association in 1919 (5).

At the risk of digressing for a moment, it is fitting to note that the first recorded attempts to organize Catholic hospitals in Alberta seemed to have been influenced by those Sisters from Western Canada who were attending

conventions, and who were in close contact with the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada (CHAUSC) especially with its founder and President, Father Charles Moulinier, S.J.

Search into archival materials (6,7) resulted in findings as far back as 1919. There we read that on May 1, 1919, Father Charles Moulinier, S.J. was invited as a consultant to their meetings by Sister M. A. Gosselin, Superior, St. Boniface Hospital, Manitoba. Sister Gosselin also invited the Sisters from the Misericordia Hospital in Winnipeg to attend some of the meetings.

Accompanied by Dr. L. Bowman, Director of the American College of Surgeons, Father C. Moulinier journeyed throughout Western Canada, including a stop-over at Edmonton where many Sisters attended a meeting with these "American Authorities". The main focus of their talks was to convey the need to re-organize each hospital for the better comfort and well-being of the patients. They insisted on "the formation of a medical committee, an administrative office, the preparation and conservation of the Medical history of each patient, as well as the reports of the Medical Staff, and laboratory examinations if the Sisters wished to obtain good results in their hospital organization and management." In addition, Dr. Bowman stressed, "the importance of the Medical Staff duties with regard to their sick and to the hospital."

In April, 1920, two Grey Nuns from Saskatoon spent a few days in Calgary helping to organize the Conference of Western Hospitals for Catholic members. In June of that year, two Grey Nuns from Holy Cross Hospital and two from Edmonton General Hospital travelled to St. Paul, Minnesota, for the Catholic Hospital Convention. The following year, June 15, 1921, four Grey Nuns from their hospitals in St. Boniface, Calgary, and Edmonton attended the Catholic Hospital Convention of the United States and Canada held again in St. Paul, Minnesota. That must have been an earth-shaking and thought-provoking Convention! The results were evident in the events that followed. Sister M. A. Gosselin from St. Boniface, Sister Mary Ann Casey from Edmonton, and two other Grey Nuns from Calgary, Sister Catherine Duckett and Sister Rose-Anne Laberge, "representing Western Canada, after some hesitation, decided to form a large inter-provincial conference of hospitals in our three prairie provinces, the object being to facilitate the yearly gathering of the hospital sisters in this western country" (8).

In an unpublished document, Sister Ann Ell explained further that the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada (CHAUSC) was

a movement directed by the Jesuit Fathers of the United States. Reverend Father A. M. Schwittalla, S.J., who succeeded Father Moulinier as President, worked with renowned physicians to improve hospital services, as much from the technological point of view, as for the comfort of the patients. At that time, it was of paramount importance that those who owned and operated Catholic hospitals were aware of the rapid advances in the fast-growing medical world.(9)

WESTERN CANADA CATHOLIC HOSPITALS (10)

The Western Canada Conference is formed - The Alberta-British Columbia Conference began - Officers elected - Relationships with the Alberta Hospitals Association and the Alberta Municipal Hospitals - Western Canada Conference elected its officers - Membership fees set - List of hospital members - Canadian Advisory Board

A formal association of Catholic hospitals in the Western provinces was born after the Sisters returned to their respective provinces following the convention of June, 1921. The association was to include Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. Later that summer, British Columbia was invited to join. The conference was named: "The Western Canada Conference of the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada." A long name indeed!

A general meeting of this new body was called at Regina in the fall of 1921. "But only a few could attend". Again, in the fall of 1922, the twenty-six member hospitals were strongly urged to attend. Great efforts and cooperation resulted in making this first regular convention, a practical and helpful gathering. "Sad to say, because of distances, only seven hospitals were represented other than the two local hospitals".

The dedication and persistent spirit of our pioneers was not dampened; or at least their zeal did not appear to have diminished in the face of these two unsuccessful attempts to form an Association. Evidently, they continued to see the importance of joining forces in order to improve and strengthen their hospitals and all other Catholic hospitals in Western Canada. So "a committee was appointed .. to recommend whatever measures would be deemed desirable in order to assist all of the hospitals concerned".

It was recommended by that Committee that the Executive of the Western Canada Conference designate three groups of hospitals to form the

following: The Manitoba District Conference, The Saskatchewan District Conference, and The Alberta-British Columbia Conference.

Such conferences were to have their respective officers meet annually. It is reasonable to assume that all this happened during the convention of November 12 - 14, 1922. The eagerness of the organizers was growing, and their determination was admirable as seen in this excerpt from the Minutes: "The Sisters of The Alberta-British Columbia Conference immediately proceeded to the election of their officers for 1922-23. The following members were elected:

Sister St. Jean de l'Eucharistie	President
Sister Charles	1st Vice President
Sister M. de la Presentation	2nd Vice President
Sister M. Camillia	3rd Vice President
Sister Rose-Anne Laberge	Secretary-Treasurer
Executive: Sisters C. Wagner, Agatha, and M. Laverty.	

It was decided that the annual meeting would be held jointly with the Alberta Hospital Association. That Association, founded in 1919, grouped the hospitals in Alberta that were not "municipal hospitals" (11). It is known that municipal hospitals were organized on their own. Their Act is dated 1917 (12).

Whether Catholic hospitals belonged to the Alberta Hospital Association at that time is a question that has been difficult to ascertain. The answer seems to be negative, as reported in The Catholic Record, "The Canadian Hospital Council is a federation of the provincial, inter-provincial, and regional hospital associations in Canada - twelve in all. In addition, the membership included the regional conferences of the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada." (13)

The foundation of the District Conferences seems to have created an additional layer in the hospitals' organization. The District Conferences were to report to the main CHAUSC through the "Mother" Conference, the Western Canada Conference (W.C.C.). This added complexity was accepted in order to reap the benefits of mutual support. At this convention of November, 1922, W.C.C. also elected its own officers as follows:

Mother O. Dugas	President
Sister M. Eulalia	1st Vice President
Sister Charles	2nd Vice President
Sister Ste. Madeline	3rd Vice President
Sister C. Duckett	Secretary Treasurer
Executive: Sisters M. A. Casey, M. E. Quesnel, M. Katherine, St. Mark and Mother V. Allaire	

The Minutes specifically explain that it was “the express desire of the delegates that the Provinces should remain in close relationship with the Mother Branch, and communicate through their Secretary with the greater Catholic Hospital Association”.

The new District Conference was to find ways of meeting its expenses. We read in the Minutes the obviously hesitant decision: “One of the delicate but necessary tasks of the secretary of this new Conference is to draw the attention of the Hospital members to the fact that the annual membership fee (\$2.00) is to be collected at the annual meeting or immediately afterward by the new secretary.”

As of December 27, 1922, the list of hospital members included eleven hospitals giving a possible total income of \$22.00 for the year.

Our Lady of the Rosary	Castor, Alberta
Sisters of Charity	Cold Lake, Alberta
Providence General Hospital	Daysland, Alberta
General Hospital	Edmonton, Alberta
Misericordia Hospital	Edmonton, Alberta
St. Mary’s Hospital	Trochu, Alberta
General Hospital	Vegreville, Alberta
St. Joseph’s Hospital	Camay, B.C.
St. Eugene’s Hospital	Cranbrook, B.C.
St. Mary’s Hospital	New Westminster, B.C.
St. Paul’s Hospital	Vancouver, B.C.

This list given in the Minutes of December 27, 1922, is obviously incomplete as one hospital, the Holy Cross in Calgary, was not included; however, the Minutes are signed by Sr. St. Jean de l’Eucharistie, President, and Sister Laberge, Secretary, who were both from the Holy Cross. The writer, therefore, is justified in noting that there were at least twelve hospitals in the Conference in 1922.

This system of organization seems to have continued satisfactorily for the next two decades. During that time, no outstanding event marked the history of Catholic hospitals in the western part of Canada.

Of special interest here is the fact that, in 1939, CHAUSC established a Canadian Advisory Board recognizing “that in many important respects, the problems of the Catholic hospitals were somewhat different in the two countries”

(14). In 1942, the Advisory Board became the Catholic Hospital Council of Canada (CHCC). The Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC) however was to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1989, recognizing its origin with the establishment of the Canadian Advisory Board.

The above brief overview indicates that the birth of an Association of Catholic hospitals in Alberta had a slow beginning spanning several decades. It was not until a real need was felt, that our pioneers moved very quickly to find a way to establish a more permanent structure.

FINALLY, A SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE

The National Health Insurance - ByLaws
developed - Incorporation registered - Eligibility
for membership - First Board of Directors elected

The “real need” became evident when Canadians heard of the possibility of the enactment of a National Health Insurance scheme. In a letter dated January 28, 1943, from Mr. J. J. Saucier, Barrister and Solicitor to Sister Alice Herman, Superior, Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary, Mr. Saucier apologized for his delay in preparing the necessary legal documentation for application under the Societies Act and the preparation of the Bylaws. His file referred to “The Association of Catholic Hospitals of Alberta” (15). By February 2, 1943, both documents were received by Sister Herman and things must have proceeded quickly from then on. Mr. Saucier indicated in his letter of June 14, 1943, to Sister Herman, that he was sending her, “A true copy of the Application for Incorporation; a true copy of the By-Laws, the original Certificate of Incorporation, dated the 4th instant; and Draft Minutes of Meeting of Directors”. He further noted that Sister Alice Herman and Sister Anna Keohane “as the first Directors, should hold a meeting as soon as is reasonably possible to pass the resolutions set forth in the enclosed draft Minutes, which should then be completed and signed by both of you.”

Only ten days elapsed before a meeting was held in which a Board of Directors was elected. The “By-Laws of the Hospital Conference of Alberta” dated February 9, 1943, were signed by five Directors having each one witness to signatures from their own institution. The signatures are as follows:

Sister Anne Philomena, Midnapore
Sister Anna Keohane, Superior, General Hospital, Vegreville
Sister Margaret O’Grady, Superior, General Hospital, Edmonton
Sister Marie de Jesus, Superior, Misericordia Hospital, Edmonton
Sister Alice M. Herman, Superior, Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary

The Incorporation was registered in the Alberta Gazette on June 15, 1943. (16) These original By-Laws under the Societies Act, 1924, listed as eligible for membership in the Association:

1. "Any person professing the Roman Catholic faith, and
2. Any body corporate, affiliated with or forming a branch of the Roman Catholic Church who operates a Roman Catholic Hospital within the Province of Alberta, and any such body corporate operating more than one such hospital in the said Province may acquire a separate membership in the Association for each hospital operated by it within the said province."

Applications "shall be accompanied by the payment of such amount not to exceed the sum or \$25.00 ..." Section (19) indicated that "the number of Directors shall be not less than two nor more than seven and the first Directors shall be:

Sister Alice Herman, Sister Superior, Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary, and Sister Anna Keohane, St. Joseph's Hospital, Vegreville.

The ByLaws further stipulated that "at each annual general meeting of the Association, the whole of the Directors shall retire from office and the Association shall elect Directors to fill the offices vacated. A retiring Director shall be eligible for re-election."

A letter to Sister Berthe Dorais, St. Boniface Hospital, Manitoba, (17) dated June 26, 1943, gives a report of the first meeting held on June 24. The letter was typed to be signed by the Secretary, Sister M. Emmanuel, but was obviously written by Sister Alice Herman, as her usual conclusion "Sincerely in the Sacred Heart" testifies. The list of newly elected officers included in that letter are as follows:

President: Sister A. Herman, Superior, Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary
Secretary: Sister Emmanuel, St. Michael's Hospital, Lethbridge
Councillors: Sister M. Geraldine, Superior, St. Mary's Hospital, Camrose
Sister M. Martin, Superior, St. Joseph's Hospital, Edmonton
Sister M. O'Grady, Superior, Edmonton General Hospital
Mother Patricia, Sacred Heart Convent, Edmonton

Hospital Administration Division:

Sister St. Oswald, Misericordia Hospital, Edmonton - Chair
Sister Kenny, St. Joseph's Hospital, Barrhead
Sister Anna Keohane, Superior, Vegreville General Hospital

Nursing Service Division:

Sister F. Keegan, Edmonton General Hospital, Chair

Sister Cecelia, Vegreville General Hospital

Sister Christina, Misericordia Hospital, Edmonton

The writer of this letter asked Sister Dorais for “anything on Health Insurance that you may hear of.” In a chronological review of preserved Minutes and Reports for the year 1943-44, references to “Health Insurance” occurred often enough to arouse one’s curiosity. In fact, there was no doubt that this issue was the main reason for Catholic hospitals to seek strength against a perceived danger by uniting and forming an Association. What were the perceived dangers? Was it loss of control over Catholic hospitals, secularization, loss of freedom in ethical matters? Most likely, all of the above were the major concerns of Catholic hospitals and their main reason for seeking strength in unity.

EARLY, EARLY PIONEERS BEFORE THE 1920'S



Sr. C. Duckett, Superior
Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary



Sr. M.A. Casey, Superior
Edmonton General Hospital



Sr. R.A. Laberge, Treasurer
Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary



Grey Nuns arrive in Alberta, 1859

THE FIRST DIRECTORS



Sr. Alice Herman, Superior
Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary



Sr. Anne Keohane, Superior
General Hospital, Vegreville

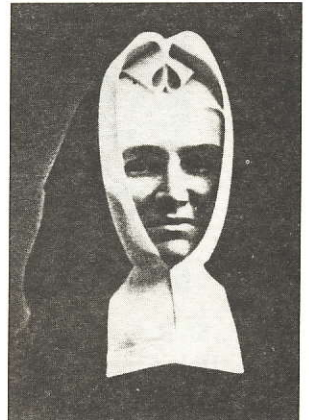
OTHER CHARTERED MEMBERS



Sr. Anne Philomena
Father Lacombe Nursing
Home, Midnapore



Sr. Margaret O'Grady
Edmonton General
Hospital, Edmonton



Sr. Marie de Jesus
Misericordia Hospital,
Edmonton

OTHER KEY PLAYERS IN OUR ORIGINS



Archbishop J.H. MacDonald
Edmonton 1938-64



Bishop P. Carroll
Calgary 1935-67



Fr. P. O'Byrne
Calgary



Mother V. Allaire
Montreal



Sr. B. Dorais
Montreal

CHAPTER II
THE FIRST TEN YEARS: 1943-44 to 1952-53
JOINING FORCES

The Year 1943-44

First meeting of the Board - Brief to the Health Insurance Committee: statistics, credentials, recommendations - National Health Insurance Plan seen as a threat to autonomy and ownership - Request for a Spiritual Advisor - Legal Advisor appointed - Health services recognized as a Church function - Role of Bishops in the Conference - Brief finalized - Special meeting encouraged to form Associations of hospitals, physicians, nurses.

The first formal meeting of the new Board of Directors recorded in the Minutes of June 24, 1943, that a Brief was being prepared to be presented to the Health Insurance Committee of the Alberta Government.(18) A first draft by Father P. B. O'Byrne was discussed clause by clause. In a three-page document, the Catholic Hospital Conference of Alberta (CHCA) reminded the Government that the Catholic Sisterhoods possessed special qualifications for hospital administration; that they did pioneering work in Alberta since 1891; that they presently administered "thirty-four Catholic Hospitals in this Province, accounting for more than one-third of the Provincial total." Moreover, Catholic hospitals provided 2261 beds, or 40.41% of the total hospital beds in Alberta. The Sisters at that time also directed four of the ten schools of nursing, graduating each year 46.03% of the nurses in the Province. These facts were used as an introduction to the forthright advice that was to follow.

Seven general recommendations and two special recommendations were given to the government. They were as follows: Catholic hospitals should be allowed: 1) to continue to observe their code of ethics; 2) to uphold the principles of Christian philosophy in service and education; 3) to keep the sisters in the administration of their own institutions; 4) to retain all internal discipline in the hospitals and the schools of nursing, and 5) to expand their services and institutions. The Conference requested a right, along with the Alberta Hospital Association, to approve any building or expansion program in the Province and the same consideration for grants as other health care institutions.

The Conference further insisted that they be given adequate representation on all hospital and nursing service committees and sub-committees under any Health Insurance Plan and that the hospital administrators be allowed the free choice of nurses and lay help. (19)

The possibility of a National Health Insurance Plan was seen as a threat

at least in the areas of preserving the autonomy enjoyed up to that time. All efforts to prevent erosion of that autonomy were enlisted at the provincial level as well as at the national level. A Brief prepared by Father Emile Bouvier, S.J., presented to the House of Commons on behalf of the Catholic Hospital Council of Canada, was also studied in Alberta so that both presentations could reinforce each other.

The minutes of that very special meeting of June 24, 1943, (20) noted that although membership fees were set according to bed capacity from \$5.00 to \$20.00, no fee would be required for the time being. It was also decided that: 1) future annual meetings would be held at the same time as the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses; 2) the Archbishop and Bishops will be asked to send a priest to all meetings of the Conference and to appoint a Spiritual Advisor. The Board also 3) voted the appointment of a Legal Advisor, and Mr. L. H. Stack was subsequently appointed.

At that first meeting of June 24, 1943, the Bishops were specifically mentioned in the minutes. They were to play a very significant role in the years ahead. This is well documented in both their correspondence and their personal presence at Conventions. The Bishops of Alberta have since those early days recognized that of the three essential functions of the Church: teaching, sanctifying, and administering; the health services provided by sisterhood hospitals were directly under their responsibility of "administration" which included services to their members, the needy and the sick.

Recognizing, then, that health care is part of the mission of the Church, Sister Alice Herman, President, wrote to Archbishop J. H. MacDonald of Edmonton on June 11, 1943, immediately informing him that the Provincial Charter had been received. This Charter had been registered in Edmonton, just seven days previously. Contacts between the Bishops and the Conference were frequent and vital in the history of C.H.C.A. (It will be interesting to examine this trend as we go through the first fifty years in retrospect.)

Special meetings of the Board were held on September 2 and 3, 1943, at Holy Cross Hospital, to meet with Father Emile Bouvier, S.J., Executive Director of the Catholic Hospital Council of Canada (C.H.C.C.) and to review with him the Brief concerning Hospital Insurance. Both the Brief prepared by C.H.C.C., and the one prepared here in Alberta by the new C.H.C.A. were studied.

Another Special Meeting was called in January, 1944, while Mother Virginie Allaire, Chair of the Committee on Health Insurance for the C.H.C.C., and Sister Berthe Dorais, President of the C.H.C.C., were in Calgary as consultants regarding the Canadian Health Insurance Bill.

The main point stressed by Sister B. Dorais was that Catholic representation on Provincial Health Insurance Committees could be assured through legally recognized Medical, Hospital and Nursing Associations. Sister Alice Herman, President, and Father P.B. O'Byrne, Advisor, were present at that meeting. The message was taken seriously, and doctors, nurses, and dentists were all approached to form their own Catholic professional organizations. Father O'Byrne seemed to have been a very helpful influence in this area.(21)

The First Annual Meeting

Plans for First Annual Meeting - Bishop Carroll celebrated Mass - Archbishop MacDonald's message - Presidential address - Thirty-four Catholic hospitals in 1943 - Nursing Service Division report -Health Insurance Report - Alberta Council of Catholic Nurses - Seminar on dying - Maternity Act - New slate of officers -New Bulletin

It was found in the Bylaws that C.H.C.A. was to hold its Annual Meeting the day preceding the Alberta Nurses' Association meeting. Accordingly, C.H.C.A. Executive met on March 11, 1944 "to draw up a tentative program for the Annual Meeting, which was to be held on March 30 at the Edmonton General Hospital. The Secretary was instructed to write Mr. Maxwell, Supervisor of Municipal Hospitals, and Dr. Sommerville, Medical Inspector of Hospitals, asking them to give a paper on the municipality question and the Maternity Hospitalization Act, respectively."

After just nineteen days of preparation, the first annual meeting got underway at the Edmonton General Hospital on March 30, 1944. Even on short notice, Mr. Maxwell was able to respond positively, while Dr. Somerville was replaced by Dr. M. Bow, Deputy Minister of Health for Alberta. The event was held as planned.

This first Annual Meeting was attended by Bishop P. Carroll of Calgary who celebrated Mass in the morning. Archbishop J. H. MacDonald of Edmonton was unable to attend because of illness and he was represented by Father P. O'Byrne. His Grace's message to the Assembly as expressed by Father O'Byrne

was reported at length in the Minutes of the Annual Meeting: “Less than one year ago a new milestone was reached when the Catholic hospitals of Alberta became this Catholic Conference ... There was no doubt at all that we have become sufficiently numerous in the Province to warrant such an association. The reason for its foundation and the reason for our presence here today is to increase to the utmost of our ability the good work which our Catholic hospitals are doing in this province ...”

Father P. J. O’Reilly, St. Joseph’s Seminary, Edmonton, and Fathers J. N. Burke and M. Murphy were also present. Delegates totalled forty-one Sisters and seven nurses from eighteen hospitals.

In her Presidential Address, Sister Herman said,

“When the members of the Catholic Hospital Council realized the implications of the Federal Health Bill, they advised the Prairie Provinces Conference to organize provincially and procure a Charter. This was accomplished in 1943 in the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.”(22)

This statement leaves no doubt that C.H.C.A. was born in order to protect Catholic hospitals against any possible erosion of their independence, and more specifically at that time to prepare for the proposed Federal Health Bill.

The President continued her address,

“From this as well as from other topics seen on the program, we, as religious, must be wide awake to the needs of the day. There is, around us, a social revolution which we can neither evade nor ignore. We must be keenly interested for the sake and for the glory of the Catholic Church”.

This first presidential address is a jewel of love and service. Referring to the recent encyclical on the Mystical Body of Christ, by Pope Pius XII the President drew the conclusion “that every human being is a member of the Mystical Body and as such has a right to our interest, our sympathy, the temporal and spiritual aids that we are able to give.”

The President then suggested a motto which is still used after five decades, “Caritas Christi Urget Nos”, which may be translated as, “The Charity of Christ Presses us Onward”. Both the national and the provincial associations

adopted the same motto. Sister Herman insisted that the word “charity” had to be made specific and not left as a general statement. She reminded all present that, “... we were founded out of love of the sick. We maintain our institutions by love of the sick.”

The President then asked, “Are we hiding our light under a bushel? ... We are making one of the largest (social) contributions, but it isn’t accepted as such ... Are we doing the work in individual institutions and overlooking the fact that we must cooperate with local, provincial, or municipal organizations? In our case it is the Catholic Hospital Council, the Alberta Hospitals Association, the Canadian Nurses Association and the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses.”

The Secretary reported that in 1943, there were thirty-four Catholic hospitals in Alberta; thirty had paid membership fees based on bed capacity. A total of \$235.00 had been collected to date. Twenty-seven hospitals responded to a questionnaire giving the following partial statistics: the member hospitals had a total of 1719 beds and 296 bassinets; they conducted 4 Schools of Nursing.

Sister Florence Keegan, Chair of the Nursing Service Division, reported on the work of her committee which was examining four major issues: 1) Health Insurance (as it might affect nursing service); 2) Entrance Requirements; 3) Nurses’ Aides, and 4) Reciprocity. It was noted that the “Nursing Service Division” covered both service and education as seen in the above-listed topics.

From its beginning, C.H.C.A. recognized its responsibility toward the nursing aspect of our Catholic hospitals. Therefore, the Christian education of nurses received special consideration as reported in the careful work of the Nursing Service Division from its very beginnings.

There was a report given by Father P. J. O’Reilly on “Health Insurance to Date” which offered some reassurance that after the Bill was enacted, Catholic hospitals would continue in existence. However, Father O’Reilly concluded “We do not approve it (Health Insurance); we merely tolerate it.” (23)

Following Father P. J. O’Reilly’s report, Father P. O’Byrne spoke on Health Insurance in Alberta and referred to the Brief he had prepared on behalf of the C.H.C.A. on the subject.

The one-day meeting included the beginning of the Alberta Council of Catholic Nurses and the election of their officers at which Mr. L. H. Stack, legal

advisor, played an important part. Miss M. Mitchell from Edmonton was elected the first president.

“A seminar on the apostolate of assisting the dying non-Catholic patient” was also presented on that day. The seminar was rated “all too short”. The audience was manifestly impressed by the presentation given by Father O. Fournier and Fr. E. Donahue, Chaplain of the Edmonton Graduate Nurses’ Guild.

The new Maternity Hospitalization Act of Alberta was explained by Dr. M. Bow, Deputy Minister of Health for Alberta. This Act came into effect on April 1, 1944, and ensured that the Province would pay for the hospital care of all maternity cases in Alberta.

The day must have been a long one since other important matters were dealt with before it ended. A new slate of officers was presented by Mother Patricia announcing that Sister Anna Keohane from Vegreville General Hospital was the new President; Sister Lenora from St. Paul’s Hospital, Rimbey, Vice President; and Sister Cecilia Clermont from Vegreville, Secretary. Councillors nominated were: Mother Patricia (Edmonton); Sr. M. Martin (Edmonton); Sister M. O’Grady (Edmonton); Sr. M. Geraldine (Camrose). Fr. P. O’Byrne (Calgary) remained as Chaplain.

“Father O’Byrne suggested that the new executive publish a regular Bulletin to keep the hospitals informed on hospital problems.” The first edition of this Bulletin was published on December 8, 1944, with Father O’Byrne as editor.

The Convention ended with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament; a ceremony which became a regular part of convention proceedings in subsequent years.

The Year 1944-45

Letter from Archbishop J. H. MacDonald - Question of Municipalization - Plans for the Second Annual Meeting - A surgical code.

Following the very successful first Annual Meeting, things settled down and there is very little recorded correspondence found for the remainder of 1944. On March 31, 1944, a letter from Archbishop J. H. MacDonald to the new

President, Sister A. Keohane, included a note of congratulations on her new appointment. His Grace also informed Sister Keohane that Father J. W. Burke was named to succeed Father Patrick O'Byrne as spiritual advisor for the Conference.(24)

The outgoing President, Sister Herman, wrote to the new President, Sister Keohane, on April 23, 1944, assuring her that she would gladly remain on the Council as Convenor for the Hospital Administration Division, "for I fully realize how difficult it is to procure workers."

One meeting of the Executive was held at Holy Cross Hospital on November 4, 1944. The meeting was chaired by Sister A. Keohane. Mr. J. A. Gallant of Edmonton was invited as consultant on the question of "Municipalization" of our Catholic hospitals. Possible advantages and disadvantages of being under the Municipal Hospitals Act were reviewed. The Executive received both encouragement and words of caution; if a Catholic hospital comes under this act, some municipal financial help is assured, but autonomy might need to be carefully safeguarded. "It was noted that three of our hospitals have recently entered into agreements with their respective municipal districts and we hope they will keep us informed ...".

On January 19, 1945, the Executive met at the Edmonton General Hospital to plan the second annual meeting to be held March 27, 1945, at the Holy Cross Hospital, following the A.A.R.N. Convention.

As a result of the Executive meeting, Sister Keohane wrote Sister B. Dorais on January 23, 1945 inquiring whether the Conference should recommend the elimination of the Prairie Provinces Conference (P.P.C.).(25) We shall see later that the P.P.C. was eliminated as a result of the creation of Provincial Conferences.

A Surgical Code for Catholic Hospitals "prepared by a capable expert", was sent to Bishop P. Carroll for his approval before being recommended to member hospitals. The Bishop answered Sister A. Keohane that he would like to consult Archbishop MacDonald of Edmonton about this code.

The Second Annual Meeting (26)

Bishop Carroll celebrated Mass - Cooperation invited
- Possible dissolution of Prairie Provinces Conference -
Refresher course for veteran doctors - Nursing education issues -

‘Board of Public Relationships’ - New slate of officers

Registration at the March 27, 1945, Annual Meeting showed 36 Sisters attended representing 18 hospitals and 10 religious communities. Bishop Carroll of Calgary celebrated the opening Mass and attended the Convention. His Excellency addressed the delegates with inspiring comments on the chosen motto, “Caritas Christi Urget Nos”. There were six priests present, including the former spiritual advisor, Father P. O’Byrne; Father E. Briere replaced Father P. J. O’Reilly who was unable to be present due to illness.

In her report, the President, Sister Anna Keohane stressed the importance of the Sisters cooperating in every phase of the Conference’s activities for the benefit of all involved.

The Secretary, Sister C. Clermont, reported that: “With the exception of the 1944 Convention expenses which amounted to \$90.55, the expenses of the year were paid by the Prairie Provinces Conference.” Later in that same meeting, Father Burke announced the possible dissolution of the Prairie Provinces Conference in the near future.

The report of the Hospital Administration Division given by Sister A. Herman referred to changes and new trends in the Province: Labour Relations programs, fire inspection, Maternity Hospitalization in Alberta, nutrition facilities and refresher courses for veteran doctors. The latter item was to be referred to the Associated Hospitals of Alberta. In 1943, the Alberta Hospital Association and the Alberta Municipal Hospitals merged and the new organization was named the Associated Hospitals of Alberta (A.H.A.).(27)

Sister F. Keegan, as Chair of the Nursing Service Division reported on the newly raised issue of qualifying examinations for student nurses, the entrance requirements, and the possibility of having two grades of nurses: bedside and administrative, a trend which was being proposed in several parts of Canada. A lively discussion followed and two conclusions were listed in the Minutes:

1. “The Conference favored the qualifying examinations as being a good innovation.
2. The introduction of two types of nurses was considered a step towards the lowering of the bedside nursing care given patients, and consequently met with the united disapproval of our Conference.”

Father P. J. O'Reilly's paper was read by Father E. Briere. The paper was received as being "encouraging and inspiring". Much stress was laid on the fact that in early times, hospitals were guest houses and each patient was considered a guest.

Father A. J. Hetherington of Calgary gave a challenging talk on another aspect of hospital administration which was all too often overlooked: the importance of good relationships and communications. He said, "Dissatisfied employees could do more harm to a hospital than dissatisfied patients." In view of all the prodding for good communications, the assembly voted on the formation of a committee to study the possibility of establishing a "Board of Public Relationships."

A new slate of officers and Board members was read as follows:

President: Sister St. Tiburce, Misericordia Hospital
Vice President: Sister Maria of Bethlehem, Rosary Hospital, Castor
Secretary-Treasurer: Sister St. Arthur, Misericordia Hospital

Councillors: Father J. N. Burke
Sister A. Herman, Calgary
Sister A. Keohane, Vegreville
Mother M. Mann, St. Albert
Mother M. Patricia, Edmonton

Committee on Hospital Administration: Sister M. Germaine, Lethbridge, Chair
Sister A. Brunning, Vilna
Mother Philomena, Midnapore

Committee on Nursing Service: Sister L. Lapierre, Calgary, Chair
Sister C. Clermont, Vegreville
Sister F. Keegan, Edmonton

The Year 1945-46

Nursing Education concerns - Hospital financial statements - Helen McArthur's talk on Health Insurance - New Chaplain named - Fate of the Prairie Provinces Conference - Public Relations Board - End of World War II - Influx of new

constructions - Delegates attended Biennial Meeting - C.H.C.A.
accepted by Canadian Hospital Council - Resignation of
President and Secretary

Recent developments in nursing education were among the major concerns of the Conference. A letter dated April 2, 1945, from Elizabeth B. Rogers, Registrar, Alberta Association of Registered Nurses (A.A.R.N.), to Sister C. Clermont, Secretary, C.H.C.A., informed C.H.C.A. that Chemistry 2 will be maintained as a pre-requisite for the Schools of Nursing in Alberta. She also noted that the A.A.R.N. would write to the Department of Education recommending that Chemistry 2 be taught in all High Schools in Grade XII.

Problems with the funding of Catholic hospitals indicated a need to revise the manner of calculating financial statements. Sister St. Tiburce wrote to all member hospitals on April 6, 1945, recommending that in their reports to the Government, all disbursements, all values of services by Sisters or by volunteers be included "at the same rate as the seculars are receiving in the same position. The same may be said of gifts and voluntary offerings made by our Catholic population to the hospitals. In fact, even though the work is being done by sisters, it does not have less value In the past, the per diem cost of our hospitals has been too low owing to the fact that these items had been omitted, and, as a consequence, it was difficult to receive the same rate or grant given to secular institutions in the same circumstances."

A letter of thanks was sent to Miss Helen McArthur, Superintendent of Public Health Nursing in Edmonton, for the talk on "Health Insurance" given at the Convention. The file copy was dated April 6, 1945, and included no signature.

In a letter of April 24, 1945, to Bishop Carroll, the new President, Sister St. Tiburce, informed him that Archbishop MacDonald has named Father J. O. Fournier as Chaplain of the Conference to replace Father J. N. Burke.

A letter of May 25, 1945, from Sister Tiburce to Mother M. Mann in St. Albert, indicated that the fate of the Prairie Provinces Conference had not yet been decided as she asked, "Do you think ... that the Prairie Provinces Conference should be dissolved? Should it be disintegrated?"

The Executive Committee met on June 8, 1945. It was decided that the recommendation concerning the establishment of a Public Relations Board voted

in at the March 27 Annual Meeting “be submitted to Archbishop MacDonald before anything should be done to forward this project.”(28)

The year 1945 brought the cessation of the 1939-45 World War II. Peace in our country also meant a new vitality in our economy and the hospital field found advantage in this new situation. As T. Cashman reported: “There wasn’t much hospital construction during the war ... this ... built up a backlog of hospital needs that brought in the post-war explosion of hospital construction ...” (29). The history of individual hospitals in Alberta can attest to this by the influx of new wings, new buildings, and major renovations.

In 1945, Sister St. Tiburce and Mother M. Mann attended the Biennial Meeting of the Catholic Hospital Council and the Canadian Hospital Council held in Hamilton, Ontario, from September 18 to September 21.

It was learned from the Minutes of the Executive Meeting of November 13, 1945, that C.H.C.A. is “accepted by the Canadian Hospital Council and detached from the Prairie Provinces Conference.” The fees, therefore, for 1946, would be payable to C.H.C.A. and would be raised according to bed capacity: a sliding scale of fees from \$10.00 for hospitals under 30 beds, to \$50.00 for those of 201 beds or over was established. The Conference also decided to contribute \$300.00 to the Canadian Hospital Council. A letter from Sister St. Arthur, Secretary, C.H.C.A., to all member hospitals announced that fees would be raised in order “to meet our contribution to the Canadian Hospital Council and other necessary expenses.”

In the Minutes of the November 13 meeting, it was noted that a decision was made to postpone the date of the next convention from the usual date in March to the fall of 1946.

It was noted earlier that Sister St. Tiburce was elected President at the March 27, 1945, General Meeting. A letter from Sister Maria of Bethlehem, from Castor to Father H. Bertrand, President of the C.H.C.C., dated January 31, 1946, informed him that the position of president became vacant when Sister St. Tiburce left the Province. Consequently, in June, 1945, Sister Maria accepted the position of President. The Secretary, having indicated her wish to resign, presented the Executive with the task of filling this vacancy as well. A follow-up letter from Sister Maria to Father J. O. Fournier, Chaplain, indicated that the new secretary was Sister Marguerite of Jesus, from Castor.

The year 1945 - 1946 was unusual indeed for the Executive. In addition to delaying the Convention for six months, thus creating an eighteen-month interval between the two Annual Meetings, there was also a change of two major executive officers in mid-year.

The minutes of an executive meeting held at the Misericordia Hospital on April 29, 1946, indicated that "the slate of officers for the year 1946 - 1947 was drawn up and approved"

The Third Annual Meeting (30)

Third Annual Meeting - Federal financial report - Student's Affiliations - Social Justice - New slate of Officers

The third Annual Meeting was held at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary on November 8 and 9, 1946.

It was attended by about sixty delegates, including Bishop Carroll of Calgary; Father H. Bertrand from Ottawa; Sister B. Dorais from Montreal; four priests from Alberta; several lay colleagues and supporters: Messrs. G. L. Pickering, Gallant, Delaney, Maier, McGuire, and others. Twenty-two member hospitals were represented out of a total of thirty-two in that year.

Bishop Carroll celebrated the opening Mass and gave a very inspiring and instructive talk. He stressed the essential and fundamental purpose of the Catholic hospital, and in particular, the underlying principles and policies by which it should always be guided.

Among the many important issues presented at the meeting were the following:

- A discussion by Sister Berthe Dorais and Mr. Gordon Pickering on the Federal Financial Report, particularly the aspect of Sisters' contributed services.
- A proposal that the Nursing Service Division give consideration to student affiliation with sanatoria and mental institutions.
- A presentation on Social Justice in which two approaches were singled out as applicable to hospitals: 1) the establishment of sound personnel policies, and 2) group hospitalization participation.

The new Executive for 1946-47 was presented by the Nominating Committee:

President:	Sister M. Clarissa, Banff
First Vice President:	Sister F. Keegan, Edmonton
Second Vice President:	Sister Maria of Bethlehem, Castor
Secretary-Treasurer:	Sister M. Annunciata, Banff
Councillors:	Sister M. Christine Reverend O. Fournier Sister A. Herman Sister A. Keohane Mother M. Mann Sister M. Martin

The Year 1946 - 1947

New Chaplain - Bishop's concerns re: Catholic hospitals and Schools of Nursing - Hospitals' precarious financial state - Central Schools of Nursing.

At its first meeting, the new Executive recommended that Father J. Holland of Camrose be appointed as Chaplain of C.H.C.A.; this was later approved by Archbishop J. H. MacDonald. The information that Archbishop MacDonald also appointed Monsignor Carleton to the Health Insurance Committee was written in a letter of November 26, 1946, from Mother M. Mann to Sister Clarissa, President of C.H.C.A.

In a letter to Sister M. Annunciata, Secretary, from Bishop Carroll on December 7, 1946, we read of the genuine concern of our Bishops in relation to Catholic hospitals and Schools of Nursing.

“Neither of us (Archbishop MacDonald) are quite certain of the effects of either the Health (Insurance) or Nursing situations and we thought it would be a good plan for each of us to appoint, for all hospital matters, an episcopal representative who would educate themselves about these matters and be a source of direction for us and the hospitals.”

On December 21, 1946, Bishop Carroll wrote again:

“We thought it well for each diocese to appoint a priest who would act as episcopal delegate for direction on hospital matters or represent us on any committees on which the Conference may wish to have a priest.”

The financial situation of Catholic hospitals had always been precarious and a Health Insurance plan might well have been a welcome innovation. Instead, however, it was envisioned with fear, and precaution was deemed expedient. "The first Catholic hospitals in Alberta were entirely charitable institutions, and had it not been for donations from their motherhouses, they would have been unable to surmount the financial difficulties encountered after their establishment."(31)

Central Schools of Nursing was also a recurrent concern for C.H.C.A.! On January 19, 1947, Father P. J. O'Reilly wrote to the C.H.C.A. Secretary, Sister M. Annunciata, indicating that he "hears" he will be appointed to a Committee "to study our position with regard to the establishment of a Central School of Nursing, a step recommended at the last Annual Meeting." The Conference was not unaware of a resolution passed at the Canadian Nurses' Association Convention in 1946 "supporting experiments with central (or independent) schools."(32)

The date of the next Annual Meeting, decided at the Executive meeting of April 17, 1947. was to be held October 19, 1947 at the Misericordia Hospital prior to the Institute for Hospital Administration and the Annual Convention of the Associated Hospitals of Alberta.

The Fourth Annual Meeting

Three Bishops at the Convention - President's Report: provincial health insurance, central schools, affiliations of students, nurse shortage - New slate of officers

Twenty-eight member hospitals were represented by eighty-one registrants for the fourth Annual Meeting, on October 19, 1947. Three Bishops and five priests were listed as taking part in the meeting. Archbishop MacDonald celebrated the convention Mass and gave an inspiring homily on the theme of "charity".

In giving her report, the President, Sister M. Clarissa, outlined the major issues which claimed the attention of the executive and committees in the previous year: the possibility of the implementation of a provincial health insurance act, proposals for central schools of nursing, and affiliations of schools of nursing with mental hospitals, tuberculosis sanatoria, and rural hospitals, and nurse shortage.

The Minutes indicated no resolution on these issues, but the Conference was obviously attentive to monitor progress and prevent any negative effect for our member institutions. As for the central schools of nursing, the annotations show the opposition of C.H.C.A. to such a scheme and the intention to develop a parallel program for our Catholic schools in the event that a central school of nursing should be established.

A new executive was presented by the chair of the Nominating Committee, Sr. M. Laforce. As in previous years, there seemed to be no election and the following names were given:

President:	Sister M. Demetria, Edmonton
First Vice President:	Sister F. Keegan, Edmonton
Second Vice President:	Sister O'Donovan, Vegreville
Secretary-Treasurer:	Sister M. Martin, Edmonton
Councillors:	Sister M. Clarissa, Banff
	Sister A. Herman, Edmonton
	Reverend J. Holland, Camrose
	Sister M. Mansfield, Calgary
	Sister Stella Marie, Westlock
	Sister L. Tyler, Edson

The Year 1947 - 1948

A new chaplain named - Advertisements as a source of revenue -
A Sister named on C.N.A. Board

Soon after the October 19 Annual Meeting, Archbishop J.H. MacDonald wrote to the Secretary, Sister M. Martin, thanking her for the report on the meeting of the Alberta Catholic Nurses. He also informed the Conference that Monsignor O'Neill was named Chaplain for the ensuing year "provided there would be no clerical work involved, and not too many meetings to attend".(33)

There were some initial steps taken during the year 1948 by Father O'Reilly to solicit advertisements for the Convention program. An innovative effort to raise funds was thus introduced. This was met with some reluctance by the executive, but in the long run, proved to be rewarding. A total of \$1,016.00 was received. This more than doubled the receipts from membership fees amounting to \$567.00 in 1948 as reported at the November, 1948, Annual Meeting.

In a letter dated April 4, 1948, Miss G. Hall, Secretary of the Canadian Nurses Association (C.N.A.), asked the Conference to name a Sister to the

C.N.A. Board. The Conference agreed and was pleased to name Sister F. Keegan.

The Fifth Annual Meeting

Three Bishops at the Convention - President Report -Eighteen Sisters registered with the American College of Hospital Administrators - Nursing Experiment in Windsor - Need for a full-time Executive Secretary -Recommending Associate membership - New slate of officers

In 1948, the Annual Meeting was held at the Holy Cross Hospital on November 7. Seventy-one persons registered representing thirty-three member hospitals. Three Bishops were present: F.P. Carroll of Calgary, M.C. O'Neill of Regina, and M. Beaudoux of St. Paul. There were also six priests. Bishop Carroll celebrated Mass and gave a homily on the virtues most necessary for religious in the care of the sick.

The President, Sister M. Demetria, reported on the major issues which occurred during the year: the Blue Cross Plan, the Provincial Health Insurance Act, and Affiliation of Schools of Nursing. Year after year, these three issues appeared and the C.H.C.A. seemed no closer to solving these issues than it was in previous years. The courage and persistence of the pioneers remained remarkable.

The Hospital Administration Division Convenor, Mother M. Mann, gave her report indicating that there are eighteen Canadian Sisters registered with the American College of Hospital Administrators: six fellows and twelve members; an achievement which seemed to be mentioned with pride.

Sister F. Keegan reported on behalf of Sister L. Lapierre for the Nursing Service Division and referred to the opening of a Demonstration School of Nursing in Windsor, Ontario, in this current year.

A report of the Health Insurance Committee was given by Sister A. Herman, Convenor. The busy convention day also included talks by Bishop M. C. O'Neill on "The Sanctification of the Hospital"; by Father P. J. O'Reilly on "Psychology of Adjustment with Present Day Personnel"; and a question and answer period led by Father P. B. O'Byrne. The Convention delegates then discussed the need for a full-time Executive Secretary and concluded with a resolution "that the Executive be empowered to write to their Excellencies, the

Most Reverend Bishops of the Province, requesting them to use their influence to obtain this Sister from one of the Congregations. It was decided also to assess the hospitals on a bed capacity basis, not exceeding one dollar (\$1.00) per bed, for the above purpose...”.

The delegates also recommended that “individuals be given a definite status by becoming Associate members or auxiliary members of the C.H.C.A..” A specific individual membership was not developed until the early seventies.

Sister Clarissa read the report of the Nominating Committee which was moved, seconded, and carried, giving the following Executive for 1948-49:

President:	Sister M. Demetria, Edmonton
First Vice President:	Sister F. Keegan, Edmonton
Second Vice President:	Sister Stella Marie, Westlock
Secretary-Treasurer:	Sister M. Joanna, Edmonton
Councillors:	Sister A. Herman, Edmonton
	Sister M. Mansfield, Calgary
	Sister Margaret of Jesus, Castor
	Reverend P. O’Byrne
	Sister O’Donovan, Vegreville
	Reverend P. J. O’Reilly, Chaplain

The Year 1948 - 1949

Blue Cross Plan - AHA incorporated - Working conditions for men and women - An Executive Secretary appointed - Rimbey - By-Laws revision

“By 1948, the number of voluntary hospital insurance plans had grown significantly, and hospitals were faced with the problem of filling out different forms for the collection of names from a wide variety of insurance plans. To alleviate the difficult task of billing different plans, the hospitals recommended that the association centralize all the plans into one province-wide hospital insurance plan. The establishment of the Blue Cross Plan in 1948, required the Association to incorporate.”(34) The incorporation of the Associated Hospitals of Alberta in 1948, and the Act to Incorporate Medical Services (Alberta) were presented in the same year in the legislature, and represented two major steps for the health sector of the province.

The Alberta Federation of Labor President, Mr. Herbert G. Turner, informed C.H.C.A. of a resolution passed at their November 8-10 Convention

held in Calgary that the male minimum wage be 75 cents an hour, and the female minimum wage be \$18.00 a week, or 40 cents an hour! In addition, the recommended work day was to be 8 hours and the work week 44 hours. The letter indicated that employers had abused women by allowing long hours of work, and it was recommended that women be included in the General Order concerning hours of work.(35) Did we read history right? Were women discriminated against in 1948?

The Executive continued to struggle with the need for an Executive Secretary and the difficulty in obtaining a Sister for that position. Three names were proposed, but none of these accepted because of other commitments: Mother M. Mann (Edmonton), Sister Stella Marie (Westlock), and Sister Phillip (Edmonton). At a meeting of the Executive on February 20, 1949, Mr. Gerard Amerongen, Barrister, was appointed to the position with "a salary of \$1,000.00 per annum, his duties to commence at once.(36) It was requested that he remain in office until the Convention of 1950".

In 1949, the Archdiocese of Edmonton decided to relinquish ownership of St. Paul's Hospital in Rimbey which had been operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, from 1932 to 1949.

The year 1948-49 included work on the revision of the Bylaws of the Conference. A committee chaired by Sister C. Clermont, and assisted by Mr. Amerongen, prepared a draft which was to be included on the next Convention's agenda.

The Sixth Annual Meeting

Bishop Carroll celebrated Mass - Vice-President chaired convention - Associate membership made possible - Blue Cross to be encouraged - Nursing as an apostolate - New slate of officers

The annual convention was held at the Harris Sky Room in Calgary on October 31 and November 1, 1949. Sixty-three registrants represented thirty-three hospitals. Only Bishop Carroll was present from the Alberta hierarchy. He celebrated the Convention Mass in the Holy Cross Hospital Chapel. Father H. Bertrand, President of C.H.A.C., and Father J. Flanagan, Executive Secretary of the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada, and five Alberta priests were also in attendance.

Sister M. Demetria, because of other duties, tendered her resignation in April, 1949. The convention was chaired by Sister F. Keegan, Vice President.

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that membership fees from 33 member hospitals amounted to \$880.00 and that firms contributed \$610.00. The new Executive Secretary, Mr. G. Amerongen, reported on his activities since his appointment in February. These included two priorities, namely: 1) revision of the Constitution (Bylaws) of the Conference; and 2) participation in meetings related to the Conference.

The revised Constitution introduced an innovation which allowed for a category of Associate membership for those, other than Sisters, who took an active interest in Catholic hospitals. The statement that "All officers must be Sisters with the exception of the Chaplain" was added to the Bylaws. A provision to stagger the terms of the Executive in order to assure continuity, and a clarification of its duties were two other changes which also contributed to a smoother functioning of the Conference.

Mr. Joseph Monaghan, Executive Director of the Blue Cross, gave an enlightening report which led to the following resolution; "that the member hospitals of the Catholic Hospital Conference of Alberta give greater encouragement to the Blue Cross Plan than they have done in the past."

One other speaker, Father H. Bertrand, spoke on: "Religious influence in Nursing Service," and said in part:

"Only when we understand the true meaning of human suffering and when we see Christ in the patient, shall we reap an abundance of spiritual effects of our nursing service, and it is only then that we shall have understood that nursing service is truly an apostolate."

The minutes of the Annual Meeting noted that "... the rosary was recited and the meeting adjourned until the banquet at 6:00 p.m." This concluded the first day.

The second day's program included a talk by Father J. Flanagan on: "Preserving the Religious Spirit of Catholic Hospitals"; and Father F. Mackay spoke on "Caritas Christi Urget Nos", the motto of the Conference. The usual "Question and Answer" hour was led by Sister M. Beatrice.

Following the report of the Resolutions Committee by Sister M. Laramee, the report of the Nominating Committee by Mother O'Donovan brought forward the following slate of officers:

Honorary President:	Most Reverend J. H. MacDonald, Edmonton
President:	Sister F. Keegan, Edmonton
First Vice President:	Sister M. Beatrice, Banff
Second Vice President:	Sister St. Alban, Edmonton
Secretary-Treasurer:	Sister M. Joanna, Edmonton
Chaplain:	Reverend P. J. O'Reilly, Edmonton

Administration

Committee Chair:	Mother O'Donovan, Vegreville
Nursing Service	
Division Chair:	Sister C. Clermont, Vegreville
Councillors of Catholic	
Hospital Council	Sister M. Beatrice, Banff
of Canada:	Sister F. Keegan, Edmonton

The Year 1949 - 1950

Precarious financial state - Unemployment Insurance

The financial state of the Conference seemed to warrant a review of the ability to keep a full-time Executive Secretary at the salary of \$1,000.00, plus travel and office expenses. The annual meeting reported a balance of \$680.33 in the bank. This precarious situation was briefly reflected in the minutes of January 18 and April 15, 1950: "If present fees are not sufficient to meet expenses, then other means of raising money are to be found. Member hospitals are to be notified that the reason for the increase in membership fees was to cover the salary of our Executive Secretary."(37)

There were still concerns expressed about the Unemployment Insurance and the hospitals' contribution: "Since each member hospital had been requested to contact its Member of Parliament, and since the Conference had written to the Canadian Hospital Council requesting further exemptions, it was felt that nothing more could be done for the present."

The Seventh Annual Meeting (38)

Bishop Carroll celebrated Mass - Improved financial state - success of Alberta Blue Cross - Unemployment Insurance defeated - New slate of officers

The one-day Annual Meeting was held on October 25, 1950, at the Harris Sky Room in Calgary. Registrants numbered fifty-nine representing thirty-three member hospitals. Bishop Carroll was present and celebrated the opening Mass in the Holy Cross Hospital Chapel. Monsignor Edmund Goebel, Vice President, Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada, was also present, along with four other priests from Alberta.

The financial situation showed improvement because of higher membership fees totalling \$1,534.00 as compared to \$880.00 in the previous year. Contributions from various firms brought in \$675.00, and the balance in the bank was \$827.85. The contribution to the Canadian Hospital Council was raised from \$300.00 to \$400.00.

Another highlight of business was the report on the Alberta Blue Cross prepared by Sister A. Herman and read by Mr. L. Protti. It read in part: "During the past eleven months, this Plan has achieved solvency and discharged in full all the liabilities, as well as accumulating a surplus of \$20,000.00."

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Gerard Amerongen, gave an informative report to the assembly in which he briefly described the various pieces of legislation of interest to hospitals which were passed during the year. Then referring to the matter of unemployment insurance, he said, "The proposal to compel hospitals to pay unemployment insurance contributions was opposed by hospitals and their employees nearly everywhere in Canada... As you know, the combined effect of the effort across Canada was that the proposal was defeated."(39)

Father Holland could not attend the meeting. He sent a letter including a brief report on the Hospital Digest and tendered his resignation as Editor.

The report of the Nominating Committee chaired by Sister Annunciata, brought in the following slate of officers:

Honorary President:	Most Rev. J. H. MacDonald, Edmonton
President:	Sister M. Beatrice, Banff
First Vice President:	Sister Helen, Barrhead
Second Vice President:	Sister Ovide, Edmonton
Secretary-Treasurer:	Sister Consolata, Banff
Chaplain:	Reverend P. J. O'Reilly
Chair, Administration:	Mother O'Donovan, Vegreville
Chair, Nursing Service:	Sister C. Clermont, Vegreville

The Year 1950 - 1951

Change of Editors for the Digest - Sessions to be opened to lay Catholics - shortage of sisters - Mother O'Donovan resigned - Proposal to host joint program for western provinces

On the evening of the Annual Meeting, October 25, 1950, the new Executive met and decided on the approximate date for the 1951 Annual Meeting which was to be at the time of the Institute for Hospital Administrators in Edmonton, June 18.

There was also the important issue to resolve, whether or not Father Holland's resignation should be accepted as Editor of the Digest. The resignation was accepted reluctantly and Father P. O'Byrne was appointed his successor. This position was not new to Father O'Byrne as he had been, in 1944, the founder and first editor of the Digest.

When the Executive met again on December 20, 1950, several points of interest were raised which included the date of the convention, June 15 and 16, 1957; the information about renting rooms at St. Joseph's College for \$2.75 a day for Conventions; the possibility of inviting to the Convention the Conferences from the other three Western provinces; the question of opening one session for lay Catholics, nurses, instructors, and doctors; the practicability of contacting the Sisters of Precious Blood in Edmonton about mimeographing the Digest; and finally, the following quote from the minutes: "... as we realize that the number of sisters in many hospitals is not large enough to cope with the problem of visiting patients, that a questionnaire be sent out before the next Convention asking for solutions to this problem." Nothing new for the readers of the 1990's!

On March 30, 1951, the Executive meeting dealt with the resignation of Mother O'Donovan as chair of the Administration Committee. Sister Joanna from Edmonton was appointed as successor.

A letter from Sister Marie St. Pierre, Secretary-Treasurer of the Catholic Hospital Conference of Manitoba, informed the Alberta Conference about Manitoba's recent motion proposing that the province which hosts the Institute of Administrators also plan a one-day program dealing with problems related to Catholic hospitals for delegates from all four provinces. It was further suggested that the cost be shared by the four provinces. This proposal was accepted and quickly implemented in planning the June Annual Meeting.

The Eighth Annual Meeting

Day for joint session with other western provinces - New grant for nurses' homes - Need for more beds for chronically ill - good financial state - The Editor resigned - Contribution requested - Request to C.H.C.C. to increase its Executive - New slate of officers

There was a three-page agenda to the June 15 and 16, 1951 Annual Meeting held at St. Joseph's College in Edmonton. June 16 was reserved for a meeting of the four Western Provinces' Conferences as suggested by Manitoba earlier.

The Convention opened with Mass celebrated by Father J. N. Burke. This was the first time that a Bishop was not present on the first day of the Convention. Archbishop MacDonald was to celebrate Mass on the second day. The President's report referred to the Honorable Paul Martin's announcement of a new grant for nurses' homes (schools of nursing) of \$500.00 per bed. Sister Beatrice also mentioned the need for more facilities for the chronically ill, a problem still not totally resolved in the 90's.

The Treasurer's report indicated a total of \$1,482.00 received in fees from 32 hospitals and a total of \$1,068.00 contributed by various firms. Welcome news for all!

A message from Father P. O'Byrne indicated that he wished to resign as Editor of the Digest, a position he held only one year, because of his heavy commitment in his own parish.

Among the resolutions passed at the Annual Meeting was, "that the Sisters be asked to contribute 10 cents each as a tip to the young ladies who have so willingly supplied us with and served meals during these two days."

Other more costly resolutions were: 1) that the Catholic Hospital Council of Canada (C.H.C.C.) increase its Executive by two sisters from areas not represented; 2) that this assembly representing the four Conferences, go on record as approving that the Conferences be members of the C.H.C.C.; and 3) that C.H.C.C. consider sponsoring a correspondence course in Administration.

The new slate of officers was presented by Sister Joanna, Chair of the Nominating Committee:

Honorary President:	Most Reverend J. H. MacDonald, Edmonton
President:	Sister M. Beatrice, Banff
First Vice President:	Sister Helen, Barrhead
Second Vice President:	Sister Ovide, Edmonton
Secretary-Treasurer:	Sister M. Consolata, Banff
Chaplain:	Reverend P. J. O'Reilly
Chair, Administration:	Sister Maria James, Westlock
Chair, Nursing Education:	Sister L. Mongrain, Calgary

The Year 1951 - 1952

Heroic life of sisters in hospitals - Funding problems - Emergency meetings in Edmonton and Calgary - Resolutions to improve funding - Sisters' and employees' salaries - Interest of clergy to be revived

Now and again, we recognize the heroic life of sisters in hospitals, their meagre revenues, and their constant attempt to help the needy. At the June 15-16, 1951 Convention, Sister Helen gave a paper on "Economic and Other Problems of Small Hospitals". The Secretary, Sister M. Consolata, noted, "It was very interestingly given and we wonder how the Sisters can really manage with such little, and perhaps, meagre help."(40)

An unrecorded discussion must have ensued because it was reflected in a very courageous move by the Executive Committee. Obviously frustrated with the problem of funding which became more accentuated as other non-voluntary hospitals received better government grants, the Executive made a special appeal to all priests in Alberta. In a two-page letter, the Executive outlined the issue very thoroughly, pointing to the importance that all voters be made aware of the situation in order to apply political pressure and reverse the trend that seemed to have become established. The letter announced an Emergency Meeting of the Catholic Hospital Conference of Alberta for October 16 in Edmonton and October 18 in Calgary. The letter, detailing the strained financial condition of Catholic hospitals in Alberta, has been included as Appendix I to this book.

The Executive met on the morning of the first Emergency Meeting, on October 16 at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton as an immediate preparation for the meeting with the priests. The President, Sister Beatrice,

"gave a very clear picture of the dollar-a-day system as is planned at present, and the effect on the voluntary hospitals for

the future. Mr. L. Protti of Edmonton General Hospital pointed out what he would attempt to show the Emergency Meeting - the rising costs, and the fixed rates - and eventual loss of revenue. Mr. Protti and Father O'Reilly traced the trend of the Government since 1948, and which could lead to the final elimination of Voluntary hospitals. The impression was that the latter had been planned. The injustice of construction grants was also explained."

The famous Emergency Meetings were held in Edmonton on October 16 with 95 members present and 23 hospitals represented; and in Calgary on October 17 (instead of 18 as first suggested) with 35 members present. The Executive had secured the cooperation of Mr. L. Protti, a member of the Economics Committee of the Associated Hospitals of Alberta, and that of Mr. V. Pryce from Calgary. The dollar-a-day system was explained as the name given to the Provincial Hospitalization Plan which became effective in 1948. Under this plan,

"all hospitals, except municipal hospitals (where hospitalization fees are included in the tax rate) are being indirectly obliged to sell hospitalization to the Workmen's Compensation Board (now Workers' Compensation Board), the Blue Cross, and the Alberta Government, at less than cost."

"The main concern was in respect to the resolution from the Associated Hospitals of Alberta, recommending a rebate of the proposed increases for all hospitals operating under the dollar-a-day scheme. The interest of all hospitals in examining their financial position on a basis of current operations, rather than treating old debts recovered as current revenue, was stressed. It was also pointed out that some of the Catholic hospitals had presented reports indicating a surplus, where, actually if proper charges had been included for such items as Sisters' salaries, bad debt reserve, depreciation, and adequate salaries to employees, an entirely different picture would have been the result."(41)

As a result of these problems, the following eight resolutions were voted on and passed during the Executive meeting:

- review the question of building grants and approach the Cabinet, if necessary;

-
- make application to local authority (municipal) for financial assistance;
 - review figures submitted by member hospitals and recommend necessary increases in next year's budget;
 - appoint an economics committee to study particularly: charity, Sisters' salaries, reserve for bad debts, and employees' wages;
 - establish two Auxiliary Associations, one for lay board members and one for doctors for consultation and policy matters with municipalities, Province, and the A.H.A.;
 - apply pressure on the Alberta Government to prevent compulsory extension of unemployment insurance;
 - ensure that future budgets foresee adequate salaries for sisters and all employees; and
 - send a delegation to Dr. W. W. Cross, Minister of Health, with all data obtained from above facts and figures "and ask just what he thinks of the discrepancies in the ward rates and how they are to be met."

There was conscientious follow-up to this historic meeting as reflected in the minutes of November 9, 1951. A question was raised again as to whether sisters' and employees' salaries were adequate and just, especially where a surplus was shown in financial statements. Member hospitals were asked to send out their 1949 and 1950 records, together with the outstanding debts of the last five years. An Economics Committee was formed with Mr. L. Protti as Chairman, and Mr. G. Amerongen and Mr. V. Pryce to approach Dr. Cross; "in regard to construction grants to hospitals which do not have the dollar-a-day plan, and to consult an accountant approved by the Executive." The importance of arousing public sympathy and interest through publicity was stressed in order to obtain more support in financial matters.

The need to encourage at least one priest to attend the C.H.C.A. and the A.H.A. Annual Convention was specifically mentioned at the Executive Meeting of November 9, 1951. This concern seems to indicate that the interest of the clergy in matters of Catholic hospitals was dwindling at that time. This concern

was further noted in the Minutes of the Executive held at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton on March 25, 1952: "As the Bishops' Representative to the Catholic Hospital Conference of Alberta had not as yet been chosen, the following names were to be respectfully submitted to the Bishops (from which they could choose if they so wished): Father F. MacKay (Canmore), Father A. D. O'Brien (Edmonton), Father P. J. O'Reilly (Edmonton), and Father Emile Briere (Morinville)." (42) As a result of these suggestions, Father F. MacKay was nominated. His name appears in the Minutes of the October 14, 1952 Annual Convention held in Calgary.

The Ninth Annual Meeting

Central Schools of Nursing - government funding concerns - a new slate of officers

The convention was held on October 14, 1952 in the Harris Sky Room in Calgary. Monsignor Hetherington celebrated the opening Mass in the Chapel of Holy Cross Hospital. The question of a Central School of Nursing came once more to the fore during the 1952 Annual Convention. The President, Sister Beatrice, advised that according to current plans, "September 1, 1953 would be the opening date of a central school in Alberta." (43) Delegates were informed that in Saskatchewan, a Centralized Teaching Program would begin in September, 1953 as well. (44) It was also reported that Miss Rae Chittick, former President of the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses, had "informed a student body ... that the Department of Public Health and the University were instructed to go ahead and make the arrangements for a central school." (45) Delegates were concerned, however that these plans were premature since it was not yet possible to assess the results of the Metropolitan Demonstration School of Nursing program started in Windsor, Ontario, in 1948.

As history will show, no Central school developed in Alberta, but several innovative educational programs were to be implemented in the sixties and seventies.

Hospital funding was still in the forefront of concerns raised at the Convention with little improvement noticed. There was a new name from Ottawa: Father Henri Legare, Executive Director of the Catholic Hospital Council of Canada. He gave an address to the assembly which was to be published in a subsequent issue of the Digest.

The Convention delegates accepted the report of the Nominating Committee chaired by Sister St. Ovide, and the 1952-53 Executive was therefore composed as follows:

Honorary President:	Archbishop J. H. MacDonald, Edmonton
President:	Sister Mary Helen, Barrhead
First Vice President:	Sister St. Ovide, Edmonton
Second Vice President:	Sister John de la Passion, Calgary
Secretary:	Sister St. Rodolphe, Edmonton
Chaplain:	Reverend M. L. Connolly

The Year 1952 - 1953

New schedule set for the Digest - The Central School question - Building grants not received - Possibility of a Canadian-operated accreditation - Delay recommended - Transaction scrutinized - Evaluation of Schools of Nursing - Pension plan proposed - Special committee re: Central Schools - The Digest replaced by bulletins

The Executive met in Calgary on October 15, 1952, the day following the Convention. The main items contained in the Minutes referred first to the Digest which was scheduled to appear in January, April, July, and October of each year; and secondly, details needed for the Economics Committee study were listed.

On December 11, 1952, the Executive met again in Edmonton. This time, "a lengthy discussion was held on central schools of nursing and on the questionnaire sent out by the Department of Public Health to existing schools of nursing." "Building grants authorized by the Dominion Government for construction of nursing schools have not been paid because no matching grants had been provincially approved yet. Personnel policies and salaries were also discussed: these will be studied later with the returns of questionnaires which were sent out to member hospitals. There was a possibility that hospital accreditation would be Canadian-operated in the near future. The Executive worried about the "costs to the Conference or to each individual member hospital." More work needed to be done on all of these items.

At the Executive Meeting of February 13, 1953, a resolution of the Associated Hospitals of Alberta, recommending a "delay of three to five years in the formation of a Canadian Commission on Hospital Accreditation and further intensive study of the proposal" was read.(46) The resolution was discussed. However, no conclusion was recorded.

The Executive often showed concern that some member hospitals might be railroaded into their transactions. An example of this is noted in the minutes of the August 6, 1953 meeting: "There was a discussion of the assigning of contracts by member hospitals, and it was agreed that before any member signs a contract, the Executive should be consulted so as to ensure that individual members will not sign contracts which are unfair and unfavorable".

The Conference was made aware of a report: "Evaluation of Schools of Nursing" by Sister Denise Lefebvre published in 1950. The Executive Secretary was instructed to obtain copies in preparation for the next convention to be held October 17 and 18, 1953. Miss Margaret Foley, Secretary of the Conference of Catholic Schools of Nursing, Catholic Hospitals Association of the United States in St. Louis, Mo., was invited to speak at the convention.

The introduction of Pension plans in hospitals was also a matter of concern for the Conference, and Mr. G. Amerongen was "to write to Sister B. Dorais at St. Boniface Hospital, to ask for details concerning the difficulties she met in introducing the pension plan there."

Again, in 1953, the "Central school" syndrome was on the agenda. The date of implementation was now deferred to 1955, and a special committee was formed composed of Doctor L. O. Bradley, Administrator, Calgary General Hospital; Miss Helen Penhale, A.A.R.N. President; Miss Helen Van Dusen, A.A.R.N. Registrar; Miss Gertrude Hall, Director of Nursing, Calgary General Hospital; and Sister Melina Trotter, Director of Nursing, Holy Cross Hospital.

The meeting of August 6 also "agreed that, in place of the Digest, bulletins be sent out from time to time to the members informing them of new developments". No mention was found in the Minutes of the reasons for that decision. The Digest, therefore, ceased publication after a life of approximately ten years.

The Tenth Annual Meeting

Convention proceedings - Annual Report - Positive economic changes recorded - New constructions - Slower growth of Catholic hospitals - Central School of Nursing - New slate of officers

This year's Annual Meeting and Convention was held on October 17 - 19, 1953, at the Sacred Heart Hall in Edmonton. A copy of the proceedings was

found which appeared to be a verbatim report of every word uttered during the three days. These proceedings were an innovation and so was the Annual Report from the Conference, dated May, 1953. As far as it can be determined, this report might have been prepared by the Executive Secretary, Mr. G. Amerongen, in response to a request from Sister M. Laurentia from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, President of the Saskatchewan Catholic Hospital Conference. Reference to this request was found in the Minutes of the Executive meeting on February 13, 1953.

This well-prepared report began thus: "The main changes or events affecting the hospitals of our Conference during the past year have been economic and legal."(47) The economic changes are for the most part, positive: "the per diem rates paid to hospitals have been increased considerably and now more adequately cover our costs." There was also mention that the government now paid for certain services not covered previously. The negative side of the report was that none of our member hospitals had been able to receive the "Dominion-Provincial ... \$2,000.00 per bed for new hospital construction ... without first accepting the provincial dollar-a-day plan ..." Nevertheless, five hospitals had been able to work on "substantial new construction...: the Holy Cross in Calgary, the Misericordia Hospital and the General Hospital in Edmonton, the Immaculata Hospital in Westlock, and St. Joseph's Hospital in Barrhead."

In spite of these expansions, "municipal and government owned hospitals were expanding faster than voluntary hospitals. As a result, our members represented only about one-third or 33% of the hospital beds in the province; whereas, in the earlier years, it seemed likely that they represented as much as 75% or more of hospital beds."

The report also mentioned that "a central school of nursing is an ever-increasing possibility in the province."

The writer has been unable to find Minutes for the 1953 Convention. The above-mentioned proceedings did not include the report of the first two days which covered the presentations by Miss Foley on Nursing Education. The Nominating Committee Report listed the 1953-54 Executive as follows:

Honorary President:	Archbishop J. H. MacDonald, Edmonton
President:	Sister M. Helen, Barrhead
First Vice President:	Sister Ella Zink, Vilna
Second Vice President:	Sister John de la Passion, Calgary

Secretary-Treasurer: Sister St. Rodolphe, Edmonton
Chair, Administration: Sister Mary Adele, Camrose
Chair, Nursing: Sister Mary Beatrice, Lethbridge

In the ensuing year, both the First and Second Vice Presidents were transferred to eastern Canada, leaving two important vacancies on the Executive.

CHAPTER III
THE SECOND DECADE: 1953-54 to 1962-63
PERIOD OF MANY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Year 1953-54

Directors of Schools of Nursing formed a Committee -Fr. Connolly as Chaplain - Shortage of nurses - A Second Annual Report - Public Relations Director hired - Ten hospitals expanding - Depreciation recognized by government

At the meeting of the Executive held on the evening of October 19, 1953, likely following the 1953 Convention, the Minutes note a motion "that the Directors of the Schools of Nursing belonging to the Conference form a committee to study the baccalaureate program and to make recommendations on that subject to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Schools of Nursing."

Fr. M. L. Connolly's resignation as chaplain was tabled and Sister Helen was asked "to write to him stating that his resignation had not been accepted." No reason was reported in the minutes for the resignation or for not accepting it. The next meeting of the Executive, November 23, 1953, listed Father Connolly as being present as well as some thirty other persons, an unusually large attendance.

The shortage of nurses was reaching tragic proportions, and the entire day of the Executive Meeting held November 23, 1953 was spent dealing with the problem from several angles: from the recruitment of students to the organization of graduate nurses. A motion was made to ask the Bishops of the Province "to consider an arrangement whereby each parish priest would say a few words to his congregation on the Sunday preceding May 12 of each year concerning the choice of nursing as a profession." May 12 was chosen because it is the birthday of the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale.

Other professional groups were mentioned at the Executive meeting, the physicians, and lay board members showing a concern that they should attend the Conventions of the Conference.

The much appreciated Annual Report of May, 1953, was followed by another one dated May 14, 1954. This time, the report was signed by Sister Helen, President.(48) The report suggested the hiring of a Public Relations Director in the person of Mr. S. V. Pryce, Business Manager at Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. No mention was made of his conditions of employment: salary, status (part-time or full-time), etc. The reason given for this new position was "as a result of our need for closer contact with the Department of Health and

with local authorities.” Also included in the report was a list of ten hospitals which had new buildings planned, underway, or completed; thus, adding over four hundred (400) beds under the auspices of the Conference. It was then noted that “members of our Conference have about one-third of the total active beds in the Province.”

“A recent and welcome change has been the recognition by the Government of depreciation of plant and equipment as a proper item to include in computing the cost of providing hospital care.” Thus, another financial hurdle was overcome.

The Eleventh Annual Meeting

Sr. B. Dorais and Sr. D. Lefebvre as guest speakers -Catholic Schools of Nursing discussed - Medico-moral problems and Medical Audit - New Board

The Convention was held in Sacred Heart Hall, Edmonton on October 20 and 21, 1954. One day was devoted to a study of questions involving administration. Sister B. Dorais was one of the guest speakers for that day. Sister D. Lefebvre was also present and gave a talk on, “Suggested Improvements in Nursing Education.”

Three other topics covered on these two days were: a report by Sister Beatrice on the Institute of Directors of Catholic Schools of Nursing held in Regina; a round-table discussion on medico-moral problems chaired by Father H. Legare, with Father O’Reilly, Doctor R. Clare, and Doctor J. O’Brien; a talk on Medical Audit by Doctor M. Sereda, Doctor J. Kato, and Sister M. P. Rheault.

A Summary of Proceedings gave the report of the Nominating Committee chaired by Sister Beatrice. The 1954-55 Executive follows:

Honorary President:	Archbishop J. H. MacDonald, Edmonton
President:	Sister B. Bezaire, Edmonton
First Vice President:	Sister M. Loyola, Galahad
Second Vice President:	Mother M. Immaculata, Lethbridge
Secretary-Treasurer:	Sister M. P. Rheault, Edmonton
Chair, Committee on Administration:	Sister M. Leonard, Hardisty
Chair, Committee on Nursing:	Sister St. Rodolphe, Edmonton
Chaplain:	Father F. MacKay, Canmore

The Year 1954-55

Nursing Education discussed - Central School proposed -
Enrolment in Catholic Schools of Nursing - Central School plan
abandoned

A meeting of Superiors, Directors of Schools of Nursing, and C.H.C.A. Executive was held in Edmonton on July 27, 1954. Thirteen persons were present and the focus of the meeting was solely on Nursing Education. At the onset, Sister St. Rodolphe gave a report of a meeting in Calgary "of the University Committee on Nursing at which a central school was first proposed. Father MacKay recommended that the pros and cons be discussed and reported to the Bishops of the Province."(49)

A quick run-down of present enrolment in Catholic Schools of Nursing in 1954 showed that the total capacity of the schools was about 600 with 200 graduates a year. The province of Alberta graduated a total of 400 to 500 a year at that time.

At the conclusion of the full-day meeting, the minutes recorded that "the meeting considered it unwise to go on record as opposing the central school plan, but agreed that the only position we can take at present is to say that the matter is being considered and that meanwhile we would be interested in obtaining further details."

A few months later, on December 9, 1954, the Executive met at the Edmonton General Hospital. To the surprise of all, it was indicated that Doctor W.W. Cross announced his intention to abandon "the plan on central schools as formerly proposed, and accepted to listen to any recommendations which this group (A.A.R.N.) could make to him." Reassured that the "danger" of central schools was past, members of the Conference directed their attention to a point of excellence in nursing education: obtaining better results in the students' registration examinations.

The Twelfth Annual Meeting(50)

Convention held in Calgary - Chaplains' Institute - Bishop Lussier as guest speaker - Hospitals statistics - Executive Secretary replaced by Public Relations Officer - Nursing Education improvements required - Improved government funding - Depreciation approved - Four Bishops present - Capital depreciation - A course in religion recommended - New Board

The 1955 Convention was held at the Harris Sky Room in Calgary on September 14 and 15. It included a Chaplains' Institute, an innovation for that year. According to the program, the opening Mass was celebrated by Bishop Carroll. Copies of several reports were very helpful in tracing the major activities of the Conference. Bishop P. Lussier from St. Paul gave a meaningful address on C.H.C.A.'s motto: "Caritas Christi Urget Nos".

In her President's Report, read in her absence, by Sister M. Loyala, Sister B. Bezaire indicated that there were fifteen Sisterhoods conducting thirty-two hospitals in Alberta with a total of 2,328 beds and 466 bassinets. The President also referred to two Newsletters issued by the Conference and a Summary of Proceedings of the 1954 Annual Meeting.

The office of the Executive Secretary, held by Mr. G. Amerongen, was abolished in December, 1954, because of the new Public Relations Officer position created several months earlier. This new position was filled by Mr. S. V. Pryce of Calgary.

Sister St. Rodolphe, Chair, Committee on Nursing, stressed that the new direction of the Conference was to improve the results of students' registration examinations by recommending: "better qualified instructors, trial examinations, serious reviews for students, more emphasis on clinical teaching, and the urging of students to aim at advanced education in their nursing career."

In his report as Public Relations Officer, Mr. Pryce expounded on the slight financial improvements experienced in government funding. "An upward revision of rates has been achieved in special categories such as maternity, pension group, special services, and over-all per diem grant." In addition, the Voluntary hospitals were able to collect full depreciation on all buildings used for hospital purposes.

A copy of the Resolutions was preserved. It indicated votes of thanks to Bishop Carroll who celebrated Mass; Archbishop-elect A. Jordan of Edmonton who gave the opening remarks, Bishop P. Lussier from St. Paul who gave a talk on the theme of the Conference's motto, and Bishop Henri Routhier who addressed the audience with an "inspiring conference on Charity."

Resolutions concerning finances revealed that some institutions needed the guidance of the Conference in order to ensure that Capital depreciation would be, in fact, available to all hospitals and that a special clause be inserted in all agreements.

Another resolution empowered the Executive to appoint “a fact-finding committee to draw up a course on religious knowledge to be used in all the nurses’ training schools of this Province.”

Since no copy of the minutes of the Annual Meeting could be found, one can only attempt to draw up a brief list of the Executive. To the best of the writer’s knowledge, the 1955-56 Executive was as follows:

Honorary President:	Archbishop J. H. MacDonald, Edmonton
President:	Sister B. Bezaire, Edmonton (to December) Sister M. Laramée, St. Albert (from January)
First Vice President:	Sister Loyola, Galahad
Second Vice President:	Mother Immaculata, Banff
Secretary-Treasurer:	Sister M. P. Rheault, Edmonton
Chair, Administration:	Sister Sylvia, Willingdon
Chair, Nursing:	Sister St. Rodolphe, Edmonton
Chaplain:	Father F. MacKay, Canmore

At the January 10, 1956 meeting, Sister B. Bezaire’s letter of resignation was read and Sister M. Laramée became the new president.

The Year 1955-56

A meeting on Nursing Education - A two-day Institute on Nursing Education - A history of Catholic hospitals - Capital depreciation

Shortly after the Annual Meeting on October 10, 1955, the Executive met at the Edmonton General Hospital. The main item on the agenda was a report from the Chair of the Committee on Nursing, Sr. St. Rodolphe. She gave a detailed account of a recent meeting (September 24) “of all Directors of Schools of Nursing in Alberta, Educational Directors, and Medical Superintendents, or other hospital representatives.” The following points were recorded:

- minimum entrance requirements set as 85 high school credits.
- pros and cons of qualifying examinations for nursing students at the completion of the initial period (4 months) - **not approved.**
- whether all students should be required to take the final examination as set by the General Faculty Council of the University of Alberta **not approved.**

-
- need to revise the curriculum.
 - need of a School Advisor.

A great part of the meeting of January 17, 1956, was again used to discuss nursing education. It was gratifying to note that some progress had been achieved. The Conference had obtained the services of Sister Denise Lefebvre, Director of l'Institut Marguerite d'Youville in Montreal. Sister Lefebvre agreed to visit all Catholic schools of nursing in Alberta and provide an evaluation report. She first came for a two-day Institute on January 9 and 10 to which "all the Directors of Nurses and some of the Superiors" were invited. This experience was a source of encouragement to all.(51)

At the Executive meeting of October 10, a letter from Father J. A. Leahy suggested that the history of Catholic hospitals in Alberta be promoted. The Executive voted a sum of \$100 to be given to a Seminarian, Mr. Raymond MacLean, to compile the information. The work was completed in 1956 and gives an interesting account of the foundation of the 32 Catholic hospitals in Alberta.

Mr. Pryce reported on his visits to several member hospitals over the past few months and informed the Executive of his plan to complete these visits in the near future. His mission was to assist hospitals to ensure that capital depreciation was included in their agreements with Municipal Districts.

The Thirteenth Annual Meeting

Three Bishops in attendance - New President - A talk by Bishop Carroll - National Health Service - Accreditation - Policy determination and Vocations discussed - Nursing Education and Accounting Problems on the agenda - New Board

The Convention was held in Edmonton on September 12 and 13, 1956. Three Bishops attended, including Archbishop MacDonald who was celebrating his golden jubilee as a priest that year. There were nine priests and some ninety other persons attending. Sister B. Bezaire, having resigned as President in January, 1956, the new President, Sister M. Laramee presided at the Convention.

Items of business and education covered diverse topics: an inspirational talk by Bishop Carroll on "I Have Come to Serve"; a presentation by Mother B. Dorais, "National Health Service"; a talk by Doctor J. Paul LaPlante from

Ottawa, "Accreditation"; and one by Sister Mary, "Policy Determination for Catholic Hospitals." There was also a Vocational Workshop led by Sister M. Loyola, and a Chaplains' Panel, "Religious Care of Patients", led by Father F. MacKay.

The second day was also packed with instructive activities: a panel on Nursing Education covered affiliation, job satisfaction, association relationship, and the graduate of tomorrow. The afternoon was spent in "The Discussion of Accounting Problems."

Before concluding the Convention, the assembly elected its new Executive for 1956-57:

Honorary President:	Archbishop J. H. MacDonald, Edmonton
President:	Sister M. Loyola, Galahad
First Vice President:	Sister Maria James, Hardisty
Second Vice President:	Sister M. Geralda, Camrose
Secretary-Treasurer:	Sister M. P. Rheault, Edmonton
Chair, Administration:	Sister Sylvia, Willingdon
Chair, Nursing:	Sister Madeleine, Vegreville
Bishops' Representative:	Father F. MacKay, Canmore

The Year 1956-57

Hospital Accreditation - Course on religion completed - Survey of Catholic Schools of Nursing report

Apart from the on-going concerns with Nursing Education, finances, and the Health Insurance Plan, C.H.C.A. became involved in a new area: Hospital Accreditation. There were questions raised as to the wisdom of creating an all-Canadian accreditation program in view of the costs involved and the difficulty of obtaining the files of already accredited hospitals. The Canadian Hospital Association passed a resolution in November, 1956, supporting the all-Canadian plan for January, 1957. In April, 1957, C.H.C.A. Executive decided to "support this program unless otherwise instructed."(52) We shall recall that early in 1953, the possibility of a Canadian accreditation plan was already being discussed.

At the 1957 Annual meeting, a resolution was passed recommending that member hospitals of 25 beds or more which have not been accredited, should take steps to prepare for an accreditation survey in the near future.

The Bishops' representative, Father F. MacKay, who had been given the responsibility of developing a course in religion for nursing students, sent the result of his work to Sister M.P. Rheault, Executive Secretary of C.H.C.A., on August 15, 1957.(53) It was a carefully prepared outline divided into three parts to be taught over the three years of the nursing course.

As a follow-up to this piece of work, the 1957 Annual Meeting resolved "that a standing committee be set up to assist in the direction and guidance of the course and in sponsoring provincial examinations..."(54)

The Conference also received the "Report of a Survey of the Catholic Schools of Nursing in Alberta, February-April, 1957," by Sister Denise Lefebvre. This thirteen-page report, also included eleven recommendations aimed at assuring quality education in all Catholic schools of nursing in Alberta.

The Fourteenth Annual Meeting

Brief Convention report - New Board

On September 12 and 13, 1957, fifty-three delegates gathered at the Holy Cross Hospital School of Nursing Auditorium for the Annual Meeting. In addition, Bishop F. Carroll and Bishop A. Jordan, Coadjutor Archbishop of Edmonton, three chaplains, two medical directors, and several nurses from Calgary took part in the two-day proceedings.

Apart from the two items of business included in the resolutions noted earlier: accreditation and a course of religion, the meeting included informative conferences, but no burning issues were discussed.

The Nominating Committee chaired by Sister M. Consolata, presented the following slate of officers for 1957-58:

Honorary President:	Archbishop J. H. MacDonald
President:	Sister M. Loyola, Galahad
First Vice President:	Sister M. James, Hardisty
Second Vice President:	Sister Mary, Barrhead
Executive Secretary-Treasurer:	Sister M. P. Rheault, Edmonton
Chaplain & Bishops'	
Representative:	Father F. MacKay
Public Relations Officer:	Mr. V. Pryce

The Year 1957-58

Advisor to Schools of Nursing - Conjoint examinations in Nursing - Need for an Executive Director - Bill 101 - Dr. I. Gogan as Executive Director - Fees increased

Miss M. Schumacher began her new position as Advisor to Schools of Nursing in Alberta, on April 1, 1957. This position was a University General Faculty Council appointment. This was the year of the implementation of conjoint examinations for schools of nursing. On May 10, a meeting of the Committee on Nursing Education of the University of Alberta and all Directors of Schools of Nursing reviewed the University proposal which implied that nursing students would need to be successful in their final examinations before being permitted to graduate from their respective schools of nursing. These examinations were prescribed by the University and the term "conjoint" signified that the schools agreed to recognize their validity by granting the school's diploma to a student only upon passing these examinations. The Conference was agreeable to this proposal.

A need for an Executive Director of C.H.C.A. was studied again at the Executive Meeting of January 29, 1958. The Conference had reviewed its functions and its ability to respond to the needs of its members over the first fifteen years of existence. In December, 1954, the office of Executive Secretary held by Mr. G. Amerongen since February, 1949, was replaced by the office of the Public Relations Officer, Mr. V. Pryce, from Holy Cross Hospital. At that time, the Secretary-Treasurer, Sister M. P. Rheault, was often referred to as the Executive Secretary. She remained in that function until September, 1958. These three positions received minimal remuneration as all the persons involved held other full-time employment in their own field.

The motion of January 29, 1958, by the Executive, recognized again the great need for an Executive Director, especially in view of the "many implications presented by the implementation of Bill 101," on the Hospitalization Benefits Plan in Alberta. Even with its "very unhappy position financially, C.H.C.A. resolved to take immediate steps to find a suitable person on a part-time basis to fill the position."(55)

Doctor I. Gogan, Medical Director at Holy Cross Hospital, accepted the position effective February 3, 1958, at a salary of \$3,000 a year, plus \$500 for secretarial assistance. Later on, Doctor Gogan expressed his wish to forego his salary for the first seven months, and in return, C.H.C.A. would delegate him to

the Catholic Hospital Conference in Brussels in July and August. This was approved.

In order to meet this new financial commitment, the Executive wrote to all hospital Superiors, requesting an increased contribution as follows: hospitals under sixty beds would pay a fixed amount of \$150, and hospitals of sixty beds and over would pay \$300.

The Fifteenth Annual Meeting

Four Bishops present - Institute on Social Action - New Board

The Annual Meeting was held at the Corona Hotel in Edmonton on September 23-25, 1958. The attendance was as follows: Four Bishops from Alberta, Father F. Smyth from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Social Affairs Office, Ottawa, Fathers P.B. O'Byrne and F. MacKay. It is not known how many Sisters were present. The program included an Institute on Social Action led by Father Smyth on September 24 and 25, with approximately 150 persons in attendance. The assembly elected its officers for 1958-59 as follows:

Honorary President:	Archbishop J. H. MacDonald, Edmonton
President:	Sister Maria James, Hardisty
First Vice President:	Sister Mary Clare, Camrose
Second Vice President:	Sister Mary, Barrhead
Secretary-Treasurer:	Sister John Marie, Westlock
Bishops' Representative:	Father J. O'Brien, Calgary

The Year 1958-59

Revision of Constitution - Hospital Chaplains to organize - Pope Pius XII died - Pope John XXIII elected - Financial problem in one hospital - Marguerite d'Youville beatified - Change in Bishops' representative - All hospitals visited - Formation of hospital boards encouraged - Nursing Homes - Archbishop MacDonald anniversary

At the December 2, 1958, Executive meeting, there was a decision made to revise the 1949 Constitution which did not include a clear voting status, especially concerning Associate members. There was also an announcement made that the first meeting, as an attempt to organize hospital chaplains, would be held January 27, 1959.

On October 9, 1958, the Catholic world heard of the death of Pope Pius XII. This Pope of Peace had spent nineteen years of service as head of the Church. The Conclave to elect a new Pope began on October 25 and, on October 28, elected Pope John XXIII. The new Pope was to open the doors and windows of the Church wide by calling the Vatican Council II in 1963.

In March, 1959, members of the Executive were informed of a critical financial situation in one of the member hospitals. Quickly, arrangements were made for the President, Sister Maria James; Vice President, Sister Mary; the Superior and business manager of the hospital involved to meet with the Honorable Doctor J. D. Ross, Minister of Health. Chief Judge N. V. Buchanan agreed to be present at the discussion on behalf of A.H.A. The favorable conclusion led to a loan obtained from the Treasury Branch in favor of the hospital involved, which improved its financial status.(56)

On May 3, 1959, Pope John XXIII beatified Marguerite d'Youville, the Foundress of the Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns) of Montreal. While praising the virtues of this first Canadian-born to receive this honor, the Pope declared her "Mother of Universal Charity". The event was significant for Alberta, since the Grey Nuns had pioneered health care services in this province.

Somewhere between January and September, 1959, a change occurred in the Bishops' Representative: the Executive meetings now listed Father J. O'Brien instead of Father F. MacKay. Father O'Brien was expected to make a visit to all member hospitals, a task which he completed before the September 22-23, 1959 Annual Meeting. A one-page report was written for the Bishops of Alberta. Perhaps, one particular point of interest in this report was the recommendation that the formation of hospital boards be encouraged and members of these boards should be given facts concerning the operation of the hospital.

Just prior to the Annual Meeting, the Executive decided on the initial fee for new Nursing Home members which was set at \$25, and subject to change in the following years. Nursing Homes became a new category of institutional health care in Alberta in 1959.

The minutes of the Executive meeting of September 21, 1959, indicated that an Anniversary Mass for Archbishop J. H. MacDonald's Silver Jubilee of Consecration will be held on September 23, immediately following the Annual Meeting.

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting

Two Archbishops present - Lay Advisory Boards - Panel on Sacraments - New Board

As recorded in the minutes of the Executive meeting, the Annual Meeting was held on September 22 and 23, 1959, at the Corona Hotel in Edmonton. A Mass at 0800 hours at St. Joseph's Cathedral celebrated by Coadjutor Archbishop A. Jordan, and a homily delivered by Archbishop J. H. MacDonald preceded the meetings. Sixty-five people representing 30 hospitals attended the Convention. The theme chosen was: "That all may be one". The program included a talk on "Lay Advisory Boards" by Mr. N. Bailey from Chicago, and a Panel on "Sacraments" presented by a group of chaplains

Sister M. Consolata gave the Nominating Committee report and indicated the 1959-60 Board to be as follows:

Honorary President:	Archbishop J. H. MacDonald, Edmonton
President:	Sister Maria James, Hardisty
First Vice President:	Sister Mary Clare, Camrose
Second Vice President:	Sister Helen Levasseur, Vegreville
Secretary-Treasurer:	Sister John Marie, Westlock
Bishops' Representative:	Father J. O'Brien, Calgary

The Year 1959-60

Sisters salaries - Executive Secretary position reconsidered

At some point in the late fifties, the allocation of Sisters' salaries in hospitals raised some questions on the part of the Government. A decade earlier, Sisters' salaries did not appear in hospital budgets; in order to provide a better comparison with non-sectarian hospitals, the Conference urged its members to make appropriate book entries for this item. The Catholic Hospital Council of Canada had an overview of the situation across the country, and suggested the establishment of this practice. However, it appeared that this was done without sufficient guidance regarding the number of positions to allocate per hospital and the salary level for each position.

In July, 1959, the Department of Public Health took a survey of all salaries paid in the hospitals of the Province. This report covered 1957, 1958, and until June of 1959. According to the Department, the survey showed the Sisters' salaries to be higher than those paid to lay employees in the same category of employment."(57)

Such a blunt revelation caused concern, especially for smaller hospitals (1-29 beds and 30-89 beds) which seemed to be the focus of attention on this point. The Conference and the Bishops were soon alerted to the problem. Along with Mr. Murray Ross, Executive Secretary of the Associated Hospitals of Alberta, Mr. A. Quaglia, and Mr. R. Adshead also from A.H.A., a series of meetings, studies, and consultations followed which took place during 1960 and part of 1961. Mr. Lucien Maynard and Doctor Rupert Clare were also major participants on behalf of the Conference during that difficult period. It was during this time of trial that true friends and supporters were recognized.

It is sufficient to say that Catholic hospitals were successful in explaining that: "turnover among Sisters is lower than that among lay employees, therefore, accumulated seniority can account for higher salaries; the education and experience of Sisters often qualifies them for a higher salary; Sisters are always at work; days off and eight-hour shifts are unknown in a Sister's schedule, allowing for some overtime paid." As a compromise, the hospitals agreed to reduce the number of supervisory positions held by Sisters; this was also a point of contention in the Government report. The bottom line of this issue was that the Sisters' salaries, having been cut when the survey report was released, were not reinstated in spite of representations made to the Honorable J. Donovan Ross, Minister of Health.

This major problem foreshadowed the trend of other activities for 1959-60. Some of those activities included the revision of the Constitution and plans for the hiring of an Executive Secretary. Mr. C. P. Hayes, on the recommendation of Mr. L. Maynard, accepted the position at a salary of \$10,000 a year. The decision was later reconsidered as it was the opinion of A.H.A. that C.H.C.A. could continue to obtain assistance from A.H.A., and therefore, did not need to have their own office and staff. As a result, Mr. Maynard withdrew his service on the Lay Advisory Board of C.H.C.A. and the Conference cancelled the plan to hire Mr. Hayes. In view of the crises described earlier, the Advisory Board had been in the planning stages in 1959 and 1960 and did not get a fair chance to stabilize.

The Seventeenth Annual Meeting

Meeting held in Edmonton - Resolutions re: costs of chapels, Sisters salaries, chaplains salaries, Auxiliary Hospitals - New Board.

September 20 and 21, 1960 was the date of the seventeenth annual meeting, held in the Jubilee Auditorium in Edmonton. The convention opened

with a Mass celebrated by Co-adjutor Archbishop of Edmonton A. Jordan, and a homily delivered by Most Reverend H. Routhier, Vicar-Apostolic of Grouard.

The Resolutions covered: 1) need for Government approval of construction costs of chapels; 2) collection charges for accounts prior to the Plan; 3) Sisters' salaries; 4) recognition of chaplains' salaries; and 5) the right of Catholic hospitals to administer auxiliary hospitals. Since the Auxiliary Hospitals Act was passed in 1960, this resolution very was timely and urgent.

Sister M. Consolata read the report of the Nominating Committee, indicating the Executive for 1960-61 as follows:

Honorary President:	Archbishop J. H. MacDonald, Edmonton
President:	Sister Mary Clare, Camrose
First Vice President:	Sister Helen Levasseur, Vegreville
Second Vice President:	Sister Delia Clermont, Calgary
Secretary:	Sister Mary Adele, Camrose
Treasurer:	Sister Mary Lourdes, Killam
Chaplain:	Very Reverend J. O'Brien, Calgary

The Year 1960-61

St. Joseph's Hospital, Radway - Talk by Fr. Danis -Conference representation on A.H.A. Board - Royal Commission on Health Services

One member hospital notified the C.H.C.A. Chaplain, Monsignor J. O'Brien, that their Religious Order decided not to undertake the construction of a new hospital in Radway. The hospital had been opened in 1925 by the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception. The Executive meeting of February 1, 1961, decided: "Sister Alexine, Superior of St. Joseph's Hospital, Radway, to be contacted on behalf of the Conference, and asked to reconsider their decision to leave Radway, because of the fact that a struggle was underway to preserve our voluntary hospitals and all are, therefore, reluctant to see any Sisters leave."(58) A new "lease on life" was thus granted to St. Joseph's.

In addition, that same meeting recorded the decision to invite Father Danis, Executive Director, Catholic Hospital Association of Canada, to attend the October 8 and 9, 1961, convention in Calgary and to speak on the "Importance of Catholic Hospitals."

An interesting part in the minutes of the Executive meeting of April 19, 1961, contained the proposition that, "one of the three members representing the

C.H.C.A. on the Board of Directors of the A.H.A. be a member of the Advisory Board of the C.H.C.A.” It was also decided at the June 27 meeting, “that Mr. A. Quaglia, Assistant Secretary of the Associated Hospitals of Alberta, be invited to attend the meetings of the Conference, and act as a liaison between A.H.A. and C.H.C.A.” These two points of information indicate a definite sign of strengthened relationships between the two hospital associations in Alberta.

The national news spread rapidly that on June 20, 1961, Mr. Justice Emmett M. Hall had been appointed Chair of the newly created Royal Commission on Health Services. Upon the suggestion of Mr. Hall, the Conference asked to be placed on the Commission’s mailing list. Future activities of the Hall Commission were to be followed with interest by people across the country.

The Eighteenth Annual Meeting

Talk on relationships with Medical Staff - Problem Clinic - New Board

The convention was held on October 8 and 9, 1961, at the newly constructed Holy Cross Hospital School of Nursing. The opening Mass was celebrated by Bishop F. Carroll with a homily by Father A. Danis from C.H.A.C. Gleanings from minutes which dealt with the plans for the convention, and those of meetings following the convention, indicated that, in addition to the talk by Father Danis, there was a talk on “Relationships between the Administration and Medical Staff,” given by Doctor Irial Gogan, Medical Director at Holy Cross Hospital. A panel chaired by Doctor R. Clare, Edmonton General Hospital, spoke on “Problem Clinic.”

The new slate of officers for 1961-62 could not be found as such, but an attempt was made to reconstruct the list as follows:

Honorary President:	Archbishop J. H. MacDonald, Edmonton
President:	Sister Mary Clare, Camrose
First Vice President:	Sister Helen Levasseur, Vegreville
Second Vice President:	Sister Delia Clermont, Calgary
Secretary:	Sister Mary Adele, Camrose
Treasurer:	Sister Mary Lourdes, Killam
Chaplain:	Very Reverend J. O’Brien, Calgary

The Year 1961-62

Lay Advisory Committee - Institute-Medical Moral sponsored - Invitation to Dr. Karl Stern -George Findlay Stephens Memorial Award - Help to organize Advisory Boards - Brief to Premier Manning - Number of hospitals decreasing - Assurance given by government - Legal advisor services - Communications with the Hierarchy

New names appeared regularly in minutes of the Executive, beginning in 1960, with the formation of the Lay Advisory Committee, chaired by Mr. Lucien Maynard, and the Medical Advisory Sub-Committee, chaired by Dr. Rupert Clare. Mr. L. Anthony (Tony) Quaglia was now a regular attendee at meetings on behalf of A.H.A.; Dr. Irial Gogan, Mr. Charles P. Hayes, Mr. C.E. Maimann, Dr. G.R. MacDonald and Mr. W. K. Moore were present at most of the meetings.

At the Executive meeting of December 5, 1961, a decision was made to sponsor an "Institute-Medical Moral" and a tentative date of April 25-27, 1962, was tabled. Fr. John Lynch, S.J., from Weston College, Weston, Massachussets was invited to present at this Institute which was planned by Father A. Duhaime, Secretary, Association of Catholic Chaplains of Alberta Hospitals.

At the January 19, 1962, Executive meeting(59), it was decided that Dr. Karl Stern would be asked to speak at the Fall Convention banquet.

At the invitation of Dr. W. D. Piercy, Executive Director, Canadian Hospital Association, the Executive submitted a name for the George Findlay Stephens Memorial Award. The name of Chief Judge N. V. Buchanan was submitted. It was later learned that Sister Berthe Dorais had been selected as the 1962 recipient of this prestigious award. The Conference promptly sent her a letter of congratulations.

Mr. Hayes has been able to assist the administrators of Daysland and Jasper Hospitals to organize their Hospital Advisory Boards, as reported in the minutes of January 19. His expertise was made available through the Conference which also approved his expense accounts.

A Brief was presented on January 30, 1962, to Premier E. C. Manning and the Provincial Cabinet by the Archbishop and Bishops of Alberta, on behalf of the Catholic Hospitals of Alberta. A draft prepared by Mr. L. Maynard was

reviewed with him by a Committee of the Conference. The Brief dealt with the attitude of the Department of Health with respect to Sisters' salaries, the problems in maintaining a reasonable level of good patient care, and the policy of the Department in administering the hospitalization program, particularly as it affects Catholic hospitals. Among the seven recommendations contained in the Brief, one reads as follows:

“That in the event the government sees fit to expropriate Catholic hospitals, it will only do so upon payment of proper compensation, to be determined, if necessary, by an Arbitration Board of the Supreme Court of Alberta.”(60)

It seems that as early as 1962, changes were on the horizon regarding ownership of Catholic hospitals in this province. This was considered as a regrettable trend which would ultimately reduce the number of member hospitals by half within a ten-year period.

The President, Sister Mary Clare, who was part of the delegation presenting the Brief, reported to the Executive at the February 27 meeting. She indicated that Co-adjutor Archbishop Jordan was present as well as Premier Manning and his Cabinet. Monsignor J. O'Brien read the Brief. One comment of particular significance made by the Premier was “that the government never thought and would never think of expropriating the Catholic hospitals.” He was “amazed of the mention made in the Brief of this possibility.”

We find in the minutes of the Executive that following the first meeting with the Cabinet, financial considerations prevented the Conference from retaining the services of Mr. L. Maynard as legal advisor. A fee of \$1,000 a month and a 10% commission for any of the 1959 Sisters' salaries recovered were considered a real stumbling block which the Executive was unable to overcome. At the Executive meeting of May 1, 1962, Dr. R. M. Clare was appointed Chairman of the Catholic Conference-Cabinet Liaison Committee. All communications with the diocesan Hierarchy of Alberta were to be handled through the Bishops' Representative, Monsignor J. O'Brien. At that point, the matters that remained on the agenda were: 1) letters of commitment for new buildings; 2) Sisters' salaries; 3) chapels; and, 4) Chaplains' salaries. The Sisters held an In-Camera session after the June 1st Annual Meeting to discuss all of the above unresolved points of contention. Their discussions and recommendations were conveyed to the Cabinet Liaison Committee.

At the February 27 Executive meeting, notice was given that C.H.A.C. had decided to hold the annual meeting in Edmonton on June 2 and 3. The Conference, therefore, moved its own Annual Meeting from the usual Fall dates to June 1, just prior to the National Convention.

The Nineteenth Annual Meeting

CHAC Convention in Edmonton - No Bishop in attendance - Trends in hospitals and Nursing Education, Communications, Hospital Plans and Advisory Boards discussed - New Board

The Annual Convention was held June 1, 1962, just prior to the C.H.A.C. Convention. Both events took place at the Jubilee Auditorium in Edmonton.

Archbishop Jordan was unable to attend because of an Ordination on that day, and Bishop Carroll was also absent because of Confirmations being held on that day as well. Monsignor J. O'Brien celebrated the Opening Mass and attended the convention.

In addition to the usual business reports, the day was planned to include a panel on "Current Trends and Their Repercussions on Catholic Hospitals" by Mr. W. K. Moore; "Nursing Education - Trends Across Canada" by Sister D. Lefebvre; "Association Activities - Communications" by Sister Mary Clare; "Catholic Hospitals under Government Hospital Plans" by Mr. L. A. Quaglia; and "Community Relations through Advisory Board" by Dr. I. Gogan.

Sister John Marie chaired the Nominating Committee and gave the following Board Membership for 1962-63:

Honorary President:	Archbishop J. H. MacDonald, Edmonton
President:	Sister Helen Levasseur, Vegreville
First Vice President:	Sister Delia Clermont, Calgary
Second Vice President:	Sister Mary Albert, Lethbridge
Secretary:	Sister Mary Adele, Camrose
Treasurer:	Sister St. Adele, Edmonton
Chaplain:	Very Reverend J.O'Brien, Calgary

The Year 1962-63

Nursing Education Survey Committee - Farewell to Mr. Quaglia
- Circular letter initiated - Advisory Boards - By-Laws required

by Government - CHCA filing material increasing CNA
Training issue

The Nursing Education Report, given by Sister Madeleine at the June Annual Meeting referred to a Provincial Nursing Education Survey Committee, chaired by Dr. E. Scarlett. The Committee was formed in April, 1961 and a formal report was to be expected within two years.

There was a sad note of farewell to Mr. L. A. Quaglia who has helped C.H.C.A. very extensively over the last two years in his position as Assistant Secretary with the Associated Hospitals of Alberta. The minutes of September 5, 1962 announced his new appointment as Administrator of the Victoria General Hospital in Winnipeg. The Conference sent him "a letter of appreciation and thanks ... an expression of regret at his departure ... and a cheque in the amount of \$100 ... with best wishes for success ..."

In August, 1962, the Conference initiated a Circular Letter to be sent periodically to member hospitals. These circulars appear to have replaced the Bulletin sent out from time to time, which in turn had replaced the Digest in 1953.

The Conference had for some time encouraged its member hospitals to organize an Advisory Board. The Conference itself approved the Bylaws of its own Advisory Board in June, 1961. Competent advisors like Mr. L. Maynard, Dr. R. Clare, Mr. V. Pryce, Mr. C. P. Hayes, and Mr. W. K. Moore, to name a few, made their services available to member hospitals on behalf of the Conference, to assist in organizing their own Advisory Boards. To that effect, a model Bylaw was developed and sent out to member hospitals.

In this time of change in the structure and organization, General Bylaws were required by the Government. A letter of January 26, 1963(61) from J. D. Campbell, Director, Hospitals Division, to all approved hospitals stated that, "Section 26 of the Alberta Hospitals Act provides that a true copy of the Bylaws and of all amendments thereto shall be sent to the Minister of Health."

Consequently, Sister Mary Adele, Secretary of the Conference, wrote to all member hospitals advising them to comply with Mr. Campbell's request "if you have General Bylaws and if you are satisfied as to their correctness ..." The secretary also reiterated the on-going offer of assistance to anyone needing help in this matter.

Repeatedly, the Conference had voiced concerns about losing ownership or autonomy of the administration of their hospitals. Every move or request from the Government was studied in detail before taking any action. In particular, it was, "feared that the Government propose to make the Advisory Board of the hospital, the Board of Management, thus making the Administrator responsible to the Board and not to the Sisters' Council." These concerns became a reality a decade later.

The Conference's business material seemed to have accumulated considerably over its twenty years of existence, prompting Monsignor J. O'Brien to request the purchase of a filing cabinet. The Executive granted the request and also authorized Monsignor "to employ the clerical help necessary to set up the file."(62)

C.H.C.A. has dealt with several major problems in its first twenty years of existence. A new challenge surfaced in a letter from Mrs. M. E. Shaw, Director of C.N.A. Training School (Certified Nursing Aides) to the Conference. Mrs. Shaw advised the Conference that she was, "unable to accept applications from members of the Sisterhoods for C.N.A. training since the Nursing Aide Regulations (Section 6) states that all Nursing Aide Trainees must wear the prescribed school uniform."(71) In a strongly worded motion which threatened to go to the "Premier if necessary," the Executive discovered that the "Nursing Aide Regulations" had never been passed by an Order-in-Council, ... and ... that the above situation will be brought to the Cabinet Committee." The matter remained unfinished at the close of the second decade of the Conference.

The Twentieth Annual Meeting(63)

Bishops absent due to Vatican Council session -
Challenge posed by President - Overview of CHAC
activities - Liaison Committee report - Dr. Karl Stern as
speaker - Amendments to Bylaws - New Board

On October 14 and 15, 1963, the Conference held its twentieth Annual Convention at the Jubilee Auditorium in Edmonton. The Opening Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph's Cathedral by Rev. William Irwin, Director, Council of Catholic Charities, while Monsignor J. O'Brien, Bishops' Representative gave the homily. The theme of his homily was: "In the world you will have affliction, but take courage, I have overcome the world." There was no Bishop in attendance. In the President's Address, Sister Helen Lévasséur commented on this memorable year 1962-63 during which the universal Church experienced the

commencement of the Second Vatican Council on October 11, 1962, and on June 3, 1963, the death of the beloved Pope John XXIII. This year also saw the election of Pope Paul VI, on June 21, 1963, as successor to Pope John XXIII.

The President also challenged the owners of Catholic hospitals in Alberta: "If we cannot maintain Christian charity and a Christian philosophy in our hospitals, as did our predecessors, then do we have a reason to be in hospitals?" A shocking question indeed, inviting all to greater enthusiasm in this special ministry!

Rev. A. L. N. Danis, O.M.I., Executive Director of C.H.A.C. greeted the assembly and gave an overview of the activities of C.H.A.C., and of the recent developments in Catholic hospitals in Canada in the education of Chaplains.

Reporting on the Catholic Conference Liaison Committee (with the Cabinet), Dr. R. M. Clare, Chair indicated that "communications have been established with the Government which must be cultivated and maintained."

A noted psychiatrist, lecturer and author from Montreal, Dr. Karl Stern, was the banquet speaker. He delivered an outstanding address entitled, "Modern Medicine and the Dignity of Man (and Woman)."

The assembly voted on several amendments to its Constitution and Bylaws which provided for a new position on the Executive Committee, that of Past President; for a reduced term of office of one year from two years for all officers; and for the amalgamation of the Committee on Nursing Service and the Committee on Nursing Education under the new name of Committee on Nursing.

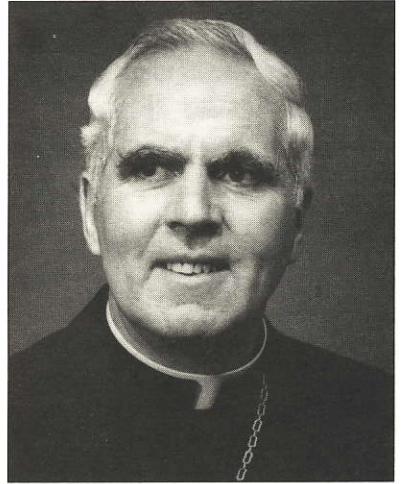
The Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers for 1963-64 which was accepted, as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Honorary President: | Archbishop J. H. MacDonald, Edmonton |
| President: | Sister Helen Levasseur, Vegreville |
| First Vice President: | Sister Delia Clermont, Calgary |
| Second Vice President: | Sister Mary Albert, Lethbridge |
| Secretary: | Sister Mary Adele, Camrose |
| Treasurer: | Sister St. Adele, Edmonton |
| Bishops' Representative: | Monsignor J. O'Brien, Calgary |
| Advisory Board Chairman: | Mr. Charles Hayes, Strome |

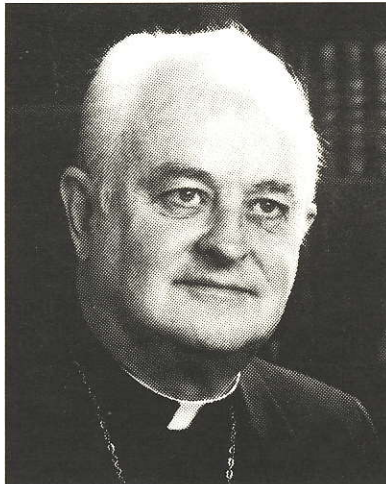
**BISHOPS REPRESENTATIVES ON C.H.A.A. BOARD
1973-1991**



Archbishop Henri Routhier
First Bishops Representative
1973-77



Archbishop Joseph N. MacNeil
Second Bishops Representative
1977-90



Bishop Paul O'Byrne
Third Bishops Representative
1991-

CHAPTER IV
THE THIRD DECADE: 1963-64 to 1972-73
OWNERSHIP CRISIS

The Year 1963-64

Meeting of the Alberta Blue Cross - Proposed Bylaws for Catholic hospitals - Advice to become incorporated - Medical Ethics for Nursing Aides - CHCA asked to develop course and association for Nursing Aides - Hardisty Hospital - Training of hospital chaplains - Scarlett Report released - Request to be represented on Committee on Nursing Education - Chapel in Catholic hospitals - Letter of commitment - Equity protected - Hospital in McLennan assisted - Archbishop MacDonald retired - Archbishop Jordan appointed - AARN request of support

Early in the new year, January 7, 1964, the newly elected Board met at the Alberta Blue Cross Building.(64) Important items were discussed such as the approval of the "Proposed Bylaws and Regulations for Catholic Hospitals in Alberta." This document was to be sent to each member hospital as a guide to set up their own Bylaws. Member hospitals were also advised to become incorporated under the Alberta Hospitals Act as soon as convenient.

At that same meeting, the Board received a report from the Nursing Committee indicating that an outline of "Medical Ethics for Nursing Aides" was being prepared, and it would be sent to all member hospitals when completed. This project was in fact completed and presented at the August 18 Board meeting.

A report of C.H.A.C. referred to the proposal that provinces be encouraged to organize a Catholic Nursing Aide Association and a Catholic Orderlies' Association, as well as to develop a Catholic Course for Administrators. There was no follow-up to this proposal because of limited financial resources.

The Board discussed the decision of the Sisters of Charity of Halifax to close their twenty-bed hospital in Hardisty because of their inability to obtain adequate nursing staff. The hospital which had opened in 1928 enjoyed considerable support from the surrounding towns, villages, and county, and it was hoped that the Sisters would reconsider their plans. Sister Helen Levasseur, C.H.C.A. President, was asked to contact the Archbishop and the Superior General in order to keep the hospital in operation. At a subsequent meeting of the Board, Sister Levasseur reported that she met with Archbishop Jordan who

wholeheartedly supported C.H.C.A.'s attempt to prevent the closing of St. Anne's Hospital in Hardisty. The Archbishop encouraged Sister Levasseur to write to the Superior General as the Board had suggested. Finally, in March, 1964, the Board was informed that the Sisters of Charity of Halifax would not close St. Anne's Hospital "in view of the many appeals presented ... and the promise made by the Lay Advisory Board to assist the hospital." The Sisters' Secretary General also stated that "it is good to know that the religious communities laboring together in Alberta are bound to one another by a common apostolate."

The Board heard concerns "regarding the inadequate training of hospital chaplains. After considerable discussion, it was concluded that Monsignor O'Brien would confer with the Bishops to recommend a course for the training of hospital chaplains as part of the seminary curriculum.

The Board spent several hours studying recent developments in Nursing Education in Alberta and throughout Canada. The Scarlett Report, recently released,(65) supported the status quo in Nursing Education, except for the addition of courses in humanities, a central school system, and the internship year in basic programs, all of which were viewed as "band aid" measures by the Board. Directors of the C.H.C.A.'s five schools of nursing studied the Report and presented a summary and their recommendations to C.H.C.A. Board for future directions. The addition of courses in the humanities was supported provided that such courses in Catholic schools would be offered under Catholic auspices. The other two points were rejected.

The Directors commented on developments in Ontario and Saskatchewan where basic nursing education was offered within a two-year framework. No recommendation was made to follow that pattern at the time.

Finally, the Directors recommended "that one member of our schools be selected as a representative on the Committee on Nursing Education of the University of Alberta." The Board accepted the recommendation and sent a letter to Dr. Walter Johns, President of the University of Alberta, requesting such representation. C.H.C.A.'s request was not accepted; the reason given was that they did not wish to increase the size of the Committee. Hope was given however, that "from time to time, the Committee, may choose a senior representative from your Schools of Nursing" to replace members who complete their term of office.

For a number of years, valuable time had been spent in meetings with members of the Provincial Cabinet in order to discuss issues concerning Catholic hospitals. Mr. Lucien Maynard and Dr. Rupert Clare successively chaired the C.H.C.A. Liaison Committee with obvious frustration at the slow progress of events. All were grateful to have, finally, a letter from the Honorable A. A. Aalborg, Minister of Education and Chair of the Cabinet Liaison Committee to Sister President dated February 26, 1964.(66)

The Minister wrote: "The government regards a Catholic chapel as an integral part of a Catholic hospital, but these hospitals should recognize that there are many non-Catholic patients who take the view that a Catholic chapel is a part of the community of the Religious Order which operates the hospitals... We concur with these statements subject to the clear understanding that the cost of the Chapel must come within the total amount of the grant available..." A very happy conclusion indeed to a long-drawn point of contention!

The letter also contained three old items of discussion: Certified Nursing Aide Training for Religious was to be given further study by the Government; approval of the Advisory Boards as established by Catholic hospitals to date; and Letter of Commitment. This latter point had a happy ending as the C.H.C.A. proposal was accepted in principle, giving protection to the Sisters' equity in Catholic hospitals. The Secretary was instructed to immediately send a copy of that letter to the Bishops of Alberta.

One of our member hospitals in McLennan, operated by the Sisters of Providence, was experiencing financial difficulties and was frequently in contact with C.H.C.A. President, Sister Helen Levasseur, for advice. The thinking was that the organization of a Board of Management would be the answer to the problem. To this proposal, Sister President replied that: "We must be cautious and first explore every possible avenue to meet our financial responsibility and so keep our autonomy." Instead, the Sisters were advised to prepare a Brief for the Government including such information as: a) present and projected population; b) health condition of the population, especially of the Metis and Indians; c) home conditions of these people; d) prosperity of the region, etc. The above points were to be listed in order to support the request for a grant for expansion.

As Archbishop J. H. MacDonald retired on August 11, 1964, the Board decided to send him a letter of "sincere appreciation for the tremendous guidance and support he has given to the Conference while he was Archbishop of

Edmonton.” The Board also sent Archbishop A. Jordan “sincere congratulations for being appointed Archbishop of Edmonton.” The appointment was effective August 11, 1964.

When the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses (A.A.R.N.) wrote to request the support of the Conference to improve the economic welfare of Alberta nurses, the Board’s response left no doubt that, although the Conference was sympathetic to the nurses’ needs, priority was given to a long-standing solidarity with the Associated Hospitals of Alberta (A.H.A.). The C.H.C.A. letter said in part “... the decision of A.H.A. as a whole would be our decision.”

The Twenty-first Annual Meeting

Convention in Jasper - Development of Social Service discussed
- Session offered by chaplains on liturgical renewal - Scripture enthroned - New Board

This year’s Convention was held in the heart of the beautiful Rocky Mountains, Jasper Park Lodge in Jasper, on September 14 and 15, 1964. Following the chosen theme: “Catholic Hospitals - A Continuing Testimony of Christ Love,” the delegates began with the Convention Mass celebrated by Monsignor J. O’Brien and a homily given by Father Paul O’Byrne from Banff. No Bishops were able to attend this convention. There were approximately one hundred persons in attendance, representing all the Catholic hospitals throughout the province.

A timely topic was the main educational part of the convention: “The development of Social Service in a Catholic Hospital.” This was presented as a panel moderated by Dr. Irial Gogan with talks given by Fr. William Irwin, (Director, Council of Catholic Charities); Sister St. Frances Cabrini, (Director, Pineview Home); Sister Tysko, (Catholic Family and Child Service); and Mr. John Farrey, (Director, Social Service, Royal Alexandra Hospital). The chaplains offered a session entitled: “Liturgical Renewal in Hospitals,” and Father Paul O’Byrne spoke on “What is Relevant for Catholic Hospitals in the Encyclicals of John XXIII.”

An innovative ceremony took place which was new to Catholic health care: the service was the enthronement of the Bible. Adaptations from the Second Vatican Council were being reaffirmed and the importance of the Bible was emphasized.

The 1964-65 list of officers appeared in subsequent Executive meetings as follows:

Honorary President:	Most Reverend A. Jordan, Edmonton
President:	Sister Delia Clermont, Calgary
First Vice President:	Sister Mary Albert, Lethbridge
Second Vice President:	Sister Laura Marie, Midnapore*
Secretary:	Sister Patricia Marie, Lethbridge
Treasurer:	Sister Mary Leonard, Hardisty
Chaplain:	Monsignor J. O'Brien, Calgary
Past President:	Sister Helen Levasseur, Vegreville

*Sister Mary St. Omer, Pincher Creek, was elected and resigned in October to pursue graduate studies in Ottawa. She was replaced by Sister Laura Marie.

The Year 1964-65

Report of a meeting in Regina: integration of private hospitals and regionalization of hospitals - Lay representation on Boards discussed - Mother Dorais consulted - St. Gabriel's Hospital, Fort McMurray - Our Lady's Hospital, Vilna - Holy Cross Hospital, Spirit River - CHCA's Liaison Committee met with Cabinet - Nursing Education concerns raised - CHCA represented on Nursing Education Committee - Use of membership fees income - Misericordia Hospital concerns - New reassurance from government - Two Board resignations

At the Board meeting of November 12, 1964, the Provincial Treasurer of the Grey Nuns, Sister Jeanne Laporte, was invited as a guest to report on a meeting which she attended in Regina, Saskatchewan. The Minister of Health of that province dealt with two specific issues: "the problem of integrating private hospitals into the hospital scheme so that it would be possible for them to have access to local tax monies ... and ... the regionalization of hospitals categorizing them into Base hospitals (providing all services) and Regional hospitals (providing limited services). It was mentioned that "similar problems are before the Alberta Catholic Hospitals," and the information from Saskatchewan was very helpful for C.H.C.A. These items were discussed at length during the afternoon session of the meeting, and it was concluded that "Dr. I. Gogan and Dr. R. Clare form a committee to explore this trend ... and make recommendations ... to C.H.C.A."

Lay representation on Governing Boards of Sisters' hospitals was a topic for discussion at the December 10, 1964 Board meeting. This was a complex proposal sent in writing by Mr. Robert Aman, Assistant Administrator at the Edmonton General Hospital. Mr. Aman was present for the discussion. Again the issue was referred to two Committees chaired respectively by Dr. R. Clare in Edmonton, and Dr. I. Gogan in Calgary, with Monsignor J. O'Brien as Advisor and Coordinator.

The matter was given serious consideration, as found in the minutes of a meeting of representatives from Catholic hospitals in Edmonton on March 1, 1965.(67) Dr. R. Clare chaired the meeting which was attended by Archbishop A. Jordan, Father W. Irwin, and sixteen representatives from the following organizations: Misericordia Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital, Grey Nuns of Alberta, and Edmonton General Hospital. Likewise, the Calgary Committee was active and a list of recommendations was sent to the Board.

When both committees reported to the Board at the March 9, 1965, meeting,(68) Mother B. Dorais was present and "gave the meeting the benefit of her vast experience and knowledge of the corporate structure of Sisters' Governing Boards." After considerable discussion, "it was the decision of the majority present that the question... be treated confidentially, and that ... an "in-camera" meeting be held to discuss the matter further."

The Board received the information that St. Gabriel's Hospital in Fort McMurray was to be sold to the municipality. The Grey Nuns of Montreal had opened the ten-bed facility on May 28, 1938, and after 27 years of operation, found it necessary to withdraw. This was 1965, the beginning of a period which saw a sharp decrease in Catholic hospitals in Alberta.

At the April 27 meeting, Sister B. Knopic, Sister of Service, informed C.H.C.A. Board that "the Sisters feel they cannot continue to operate under the present conditions, and if satisfactory arrangements cannot be made with the Department, there will be no alternative but to close Our Lady's Hospital in Vilna." The hospital, built in 1928, had a capacity of 14 beds, and permission from the Government to increase facilities was refused. C.H.C.A. held a long discussion with Sister Knopic who agreed to keep the Executive informed on future developments. The Sisters would maintain ownership of Our Lady's Hospital until 1970.

Sister D. Clermont indicated that a similar situation had developed at Holy Cross Hospital, Spirit River, founded by the Grey Nuns of the Cross in

1941. The bed capacity of 49 was found insufficient, but when an addition of 44 beds was requested, it was refused.

In view of these three recent refusals by Government, C.H.C.A.'s Liaison Committee was asked to meet with the Cabinet sub-Committee and discuss this unwelcome trend for small hospitals in Alberta.

In the midst of these major problems related to ownership of Catholic hospitals, recurring concerns in the field of nursing education were also discussed. The Chair of the Nursing Committee, Sister Lucienne Garneau, reported to the Board that a "Nursing Conference" was being organized by her Committee for early 1966 to be presented by Dr. Edith McDowell, Dean of Nursing at Western University. C.H.C.A. had previously accepted to sponsor such activity with the understanding that the Conference would emphasize the Philosophy of Nursing as applied to Catholic Schools of Nursing in Alberta. For reasons unrecorded, the Nursing Conference was not held that year. The Nursing Committee also recommended "that Father Alexander Macrae, O.M.I., Professor, Holy Rosary Scholasticate, Ottawa, be invited by C.H.C.A. as a Convention guest to present future plans regarding Catholic Schools of Nursing in Alberta."

Sister L. Garneau was also pleased to announce that Sister Marguerite Letourneau from Calgary had been named Chair of the A.A.R.N. Nursing Education Committee. This function automatically placed her on the Nursing Education Committee of the University of Alberta for a two-year term, a position which C.H.C.A. had requested on many occasions.

The minutes of the April 27, 1965 Board meeting indicated a bank balance of \$11,071 and noted that this amount included donations from several companies towards expenses of the Annual Convention. This point was brought up again at the July 22 meeting. The minutes concluded: "It was unanimously agreed that the membership fees were primarily for educational purposes, and a main duty of the Conference is to inject the spiritual aspect into our Catholic hospitals. Accumulated money was to be used for Institutes and other educational projects."

At the July meeting, a letter from Sister St. Guy, Administrator, Misericordia Hospital, indicated an "operating deficit for 1964 and trends to a larger deficit in 1965." The Board recommended that an exchange of information be carried out between the three Catholic hospitals of similar size: Misericordia

in Edmonton, Holy Cross in Calgary, and Edmonton General. This advice was followed, and subsequent Board minutes reported that “further arrangements were made for the Comptrollers of the three hospitals to meet periodically.”

The Board meeting of September 7, 1965, recorded interesting excerpts of a recent letter from the Chair of the Cabinet Liaison Committee, the Honorable A. O. Aalborg, Minister of Education. Concerning the future of small hospitals, the letter stated, “no action will be taken by the Government which will result in the closing of small hospitals at this time. No such action will be taken in the future without full prior consultation with A.H.A. and the owners and operators of the hospitals.”

At the beginning of the September 7 meeting, the President, Sister D. Clermont, announced the transfer to Montreal of Sister L. Garneau, Chair of the Committee on Nursing, necessitating her resignation. At the end of the same meeting, the President announced her own transfer to St. Boniface Hospital, and her resignation as well. Regrets of the Board members were expressed for the departure of these two persons, along with expressions of appreciation for their contribution, and wishes of success in their new assignments. These untimely changes contributed to an added burden for the Executive, just prior to the 1965 Annual Convention.

The Twenty-Second Annual Meeting

Convention held in Banff - attendance - Topic: Witnesses for Christ in Today's Hospitals - Symposium: Our Nursing Commitment in a Changing Society - No Bishop present - Governing boards for Catholic hospitals recommended - Committee on Nursing Education recommended - Recommendation to allow laity in CHCA Executive - New Board

Under the presidency of Sister Mary Albert, Vice President, the 1965 Convention was held in Banff on October 4 and 5. There were 110 delegates present, representing 35 hospitals. The major theme was, “Our Christian Commitment to the Sick.”

The topic, “Witnesses for Christ in Today's Hospital” was presented by panel members as follows: Sister Mary Augustine “The Hospital Sister”; Mrs. Joanne Young “The Lay Nurse”; Mr. Clarence White “The Staff Member”; and Dr. Malcolm MacDonald “The Doctor”. A Symposium covered the scene of

Nursing: "Our Nursing Commitment in a Changing Society." This Symposium was chaired by Sister M. Letourneau with one talk by Sister M. Halder on "Community Nursing" and one by Sister Ann Marie on "Education for Service." The educational content of the Convention also included a conference by Father John J. Flanagan, Executive Director of C.H.A., U.S., who spoke on "The Role of Religious Hospitals in Area-Wide Planning."

The outgoing President, Sister D. Clermont, had her report read by Sister R. Coulombe. Sister Clermont indicated: "It is unfortunate that the time of our annual convention in the last three years has coincided with the sessions of the ecumenical council, thus preventing members of the hierarchy from attending our meetings. However, their representative, the Very Reverend J. O'Brien, has given us continual guidance and support. He has been present at all our meetings and has taken an active part in our deliberations in spite of his heavy schedule of duties."(69)

The President informed the assembly that, "C.H.C.A. has a membership of 31 hospitals with a total of 2,388 beds. This represents approximately one-quarter (25%) of the active hospitals beds in the Province."

Sister President also reported that, "the main subject studied by your Executive and Advisory Board this year has been the structure of the Governing Boards of our Catholic Hospitals." An In-Camera session at the Convention dealt with this topic in depth.

The Resolutions Committee Report, given by Sister M. Letourneau, included one resolution recommending the formation of Governing Boards while maintaining the autonomy of the member hospital. Another resolution concerning Nursing Education recommended the formation of a committee comprised of Directors of Nursing Education and other interested persons with a view to improving the present nursing education system.

Finally, one last resolution recommended a revision of C.H.C.A. Bylaws in order to allow for the election of laity to the Executive of C.H.C.A. This would be the beginning of a trend whereby the future of C.H.C.A. would largely depend on the contributions of interested and committed lay members.

The report of the Nominating Committee was presented by Sister Madeleine Beaulieu as follows for 1965-66:

Honorary President: Most Reverend A. Jordan
 Archbishop of Edmonton

President:	Sister Mary Albert, Lethbridge
First Vice President:	Sister Laura Marie, Midnapore
Second Vice President:	Sister Stella Marie, Radway
Treasurer:	Sister Mary Leonard, Westlock
Secretary:	Sister Patricia Maria, Lethbridge
Bishops' Representative:	Very Reverend J. O'Brien, Calgary

The Year 1965-66

Fort Smith Hospital - Clarification requested re: Misericordia Hospital status - College Nursing Program in Calgary - Schools of Nursing looking at two-year program - Advisory Committee on Nursing -Canada Pension Plan - Executive and Advisory Board met jointly - First investment - Need for a Nursing Consultant reviewed - More concerns on equity - Special meeting with Bishops - Chapels, Chaplains and Chaplains' salaries - AHA's new name

The boundaries of C.H.C.A. were extended to include a new member hospital, Ste. Ann's General Hospital in Fort Smith, with an "entrance fee of \$15." This was approved at the Joint Executive and Advisory Board meeting of November 11, 1965.

A concern was raised by Dr. R. Clare, "that on recent occasions, at public meetings, the Misericordia Hospital had been referred to by the Department of Health officials as a Regional Hospital." This situation was referred to the Cabinet Liaison Committee for clarification.

A report of the new Chair of the Committee on Nursing, Sister C. Leclerc, dated November 25, 1965, indicated new sources of anxiety in Nursing Education. A new college nursing program was being developed at Mount Royal College in Calgary requiring only a Grade XI as entrance requirements and a four-year degree program at the University of Alberta was being proposed. In addition, Sister Leclerc wrote, "There are rumors that the Calgary General Hospital and the Royal Alexandra Hospital are studying possibilities of a two-year program in their school, or outside the school. Sister T. Castonguay (Regina Grey Nuns' School of Nursing) would have a better idea about it as she has been invited to speak to Faculty and Board about her program."(70)

The Honorable J. D. Ross, Minister of Health, requested C.H.C.A. to submit the names of two or three persons who might be selected to form an Advisory Council on Nursing in order to study the Scarlett Committee Report.

The Conference sent the names of Sister C. Leclerc, Sister M. Beatrice, and Sister Madeleine, following the January 7, 1966 meeting.(71) At the meeting held September 30, a letter from the Minister advised that he had selected Sister M. Beatrice from Lethbridge to represent C.H.C.A. on the Advisory Council on Nursing.

The Executive Director of C.H.A.C., Father A.L.N. Danis, O.M.I., in a letter, informed C.H.C.A. that the Federal Government was planning to exclude religious persons from the Canada Pension Plan (CPP). He asked the Conference to obtain the opinion of Major Superiors before the Canadian Religious Conference, and C.H.A.C. presented their views to the Federal Cabinet. The answer given to Father Danis, was that C.H.C.A. recommended that the Sisters make application to be included in CPP. This point was resolved satisfactorily shortly afterward.

The work done by members of the Advisory Board under the chairmanship of Dr. R. Clare was often recognized as vital to the survival and growth of the Conference. However, meetings were held separately, i.e. in the morning for C.H.C.A. Executive, and in the afternoon, the Lay Advisory Board members joined the meeting. At the January 7, 1966, meeting of the Executive, a significant motion was passed, "that in future, joint meetings of the Executive and Advisory Board will be held in preference to separate meetings." The first such historical event took place on February 18, 1966.

The joint meeting voted the first investment of \$6,000 with the National Trust Company for one year, leaving a bank balance of \$2,889.25. The earlier suggestion that all surplus should be spent for educational activities does not seem to have surfaced at this time.

A repeated recommendation of the Nursing Committee was the appointment of a consultant "to study nursing programs in Catholic Schools of Nursing, and to make suggestions regarding curricula." At the February meeting, the Executive decided to appoint Father A. Macrae for that purpose. Unfortunately, it was learned later that Fr. A. Macrae could not accept the appointment. This information was received with regret, but the Executive soon realized that the hiring of a consultant at this time might have been only a duplication of studies, task forces, and surveys being carried out throughout Canada. The plan, therefore, was held in abeyance for the time being and the Committee on Nursing of C.H.C.A. continued to be vigilant and active.

At the 1965 Convention, Mr. J. D. Campbell, Executive Director of the Alberta Hospitalization Benefits Plan, gave a talk, which contained matters of concern to Catholic hospitals, especially in reference to the equity of the Sisters in those hospitals. A Committee was formed to review these concerns and meet with Mr. Campbell for clarification. Mr. W. K. Moore chaired the committee and worked diligently with Mr. R. Aman and Mr. L. Wilson. Reporting to the Joint Executive and Advisory Board on February 18, 1966, Mr. Moore indicated that indeed, Mr. Campbell admitted that his feelings are "that the Catholic hospitals are justified in expecting some return on their investment ... The Committee suggested that the Conference institute a proper investigation so as to determine as soon as possible the fair and reasonable equity in each of the member hospitals at the inception of the Hospital Plan in April, 1958." It was learned at that time that "the Department of Health had worked back from 1964 to 1958 and had established equities for each of the 30 member hospitals... The total equities amounted to \$17,580,000; the equity of the Provincial Government amounted to \$1,464,000, leaving a net equity for the Catholic hospitals of \$16,116,000." Developments over the next few years could be followed with interest and patience as a final conclusion was long to arrive.

There was a special meeting of the Bishops of Alberta with representatives of the Executive and Advisory Board of C.H.C.A. on February 22, 1966, for the purpose of bringing "the Bishops up to date," and seeking their guidance on the current problems facing the Catholic hospitals of Alberta. Six members of the Alberta Hierarchy were present: Archbishop A. Jordan, Bishop F. P. Carroll, Bishop H. Routhier, Bishop P. Piche, Bishop N. Savaryn, and Bishop J. L. Wilhelm. Six members of the Executive, Advisory Board, and Nursing Committee participated in the meeting which was held in St. Mary's Rectory in Calgary.

Much of the material contained in the minutes of that meeting has been discussed at length in the preceding pages: equity, regionalization of hospitals, Boards of Management, and nursing education. In addition, Dr. I. Gogan gave a report on Chapels, Chaplains, and Chaplains' salaries. From that report, it was pointed out that C.H.C.A. requires "some direction ... in the establishment of inter-demoninational chapels in our hospitals." Also, "it was recognized that the Chaplain is a very necessary component in the hospital team and ... should receive proper training." It was also mentioned that "the Chaplains' salary as such is still an unapproved cost. In the majority of cases, this cost is met by the Sisters."

Archbishop A. Jordan, as president of the meetings, “strongly urged the Conference to keep the Bishops informed of progress, and that no conclusions be reached without their approval.” In concluding, he also thanked C.H.C.A. for this exchange of views and offered words of encouragement in the apostolate of the sick.

Of special interest to the reader is the fact that the Associated Hospitals of Alberta (A.H.A.) obtained new legislation on April 3, 1966 changing their name to Alberta Hospital Association.

The Twenty-Third Annual Meeting(72)

Convention held in Lethbridge - Question by the President concerning survival of C.H.C.A. - Bylaws revisions not presented yet - New Board

The Convention was held on October 26, 1966 at the Park Plaza Hotel in Lethbridge, just prior to the A.H.A. Convention. Approximately 75 delegates, representing 31 hospitals and 13 congregations of Sisters attended the day’s event.

There was no Bishop present at the Convention, and the Opening Mass was celebrated by Monsignor J. O’Brien with a homily by Father L. Lacey on “True Witnessing”.

In the President’s Report, Sister Mary Albert raised a surprising question: “How long should we, as a Provincial Association of Catholic hospitals, continue?” This question was interpreted as a challenge, and when Monsignor J. O’Brien gave the Bishops’ Representative’s Report, he was very clear that Catholic hospitals, the Sisters, and C.H.C.A., were needed and wanted in Alberta health care more than ever before.

In planning for the 1966 Convention, Bylaws revisions were prepared to allow the election of one Advisory Board member on C.H.C.A. Executive as voted at the 1965 Convention. A footnote was registered in the minutes of the September 30th joint meeting of the Executive and Advisory Board. Wisely or not, it was decided not to present the Bylaws revisions at the Convention, but rather explain that since the Executive and the Advisory Board have held joint meetings over the past year, it may not be necessary to elect a member of the laity on the Executive. As a result of this hesitation, the assembly resolved “that a task committee be formed ... to study the Constitutions generally, and in

particular the composition of the Executive and the role of the Advisory Board, and report to a special meeting of the Conference to be convened in January, 1967..."

The Resolutions Committee, chaired by Dr. R. Clare, presented two major resolutions: one concerning the question of equity, and one concerning the "Letter of Commitment" or "Letter of Undertaking."

Sister Mary Albert chaired the Nominating Committee and presented the following slate of officers for 1966-67:

Honorary President:	Archbishop A. Jordan
President:	Sister Mary Albert, Lethbridge
First Vice President:	Sister John Marie, Jasper
Second Vice President:	Sister Laura Marie, Edmonton
Secretary:	Sister Patricia Maria, Lethbridge
Treasurer:	Sister Mary Leonard, Westlock
Bishops' Representative:	Very Reverend J. O'Brien, Calgary

The Year 1966-67

C.H.C.A. representative on A.H.A. Board - Hospital of Spirit River - St. John's Hospital, Edson - Bishop Carroll died - Bishop Klein named - Father Danis resigned from C.H.A.C. - New Archbishop and new Bishop appointed

As in the past several years, the newly elected Board met briefly immediately following the Convention to appoint a "Sister Designate" to the A.H.A. Board. Sister Mary Leonard was nominated for that function.(73)

At a subsequent meeting, December 9, 1966, the Board tabled correspondence from the Holy Cross Hospital, Spirit River, indicating plans to proceed with a Board of Management. In changing ownership, the hospital would become the Spirit River General Hospital District. The Hospital was advised to keep C.H.C.A. informed of any development.

A similar situation where ownership and control seemed to be in jeopardy was occurring at St. John's Hospital in Edson. The highly appreciated help from Mr. Murray Ross, A.H.A. Executive Secretary, now seemed less willing to assist in such matters and he "advised that since A.H.A. is unable to influence the Government and is apparently wasting resources in laboring over such difficulties, it might be preferable for all hospitals to go directly to the

Hospital Division.” At a subsequent meeting(74) it was learned that A.H.A. had remained involved in the matter and their Board advised the Administrator, Sister M. Roberts, “not to accept the proposal contained in the Minister of Health’s letter until an appointed committee meets with the Minister...” Finally, at the June 30, 1967 meeting, C.H.C.A. learned that an agreement had been reached with the government for construction of a new 50-bed hospital.

The Board was informed that a letter of sympathy had been sent on the occasion of the death of “our dearly beloved Bishop F. P. Carroll” which occurred on February 25, 1967. On April 25, 1967, Bishop F. J. Klein was named Bishop of Calgary after fifteen years as Bishop of Saskatoon.

Because of ill health, Father A. L. M. Danis, O.M.I., resigned as C.H.A.C. Executive Director. All provinces were invited to cooperate in finding a suitable candidate to fill this important post. We shall learn later that Father Maurice Dussault, O.M.I. accepted the position.

At the September Board meeting, it was mentioned that letters of congratulation were to be sent to Most Reverend Henri Routhier, O.M.I., recently appointed Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan, and to Bishop Henri Legare, new Bishop of the Vicariate of Labrador.

The Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting(75)

Convention held in Edmonton - C.H.C.A.’s finances approved - Cabinet Liaison report - Revision to Bylaws completed - Committee on Nursing report - Educational presentations - New Board

The Convention was held on October 23 and 24, 1967, at the Chateau Lacombe in Edmonton. There were 90 delegates in attendance, 50 of whom were voting delegates. In the absence of the President, Sister Mary Albert, who had been transferred to another province, the Vice President, Sister John Marie, presided at the meeting. The matters brought up at that particular meeting were of vital importance for the Conference as well as for individual hospitals. This may be the reason why the business part of the Convention was given prime time on the agenda at the beginning of both days.

The President’s Report was read by the Secretary, Sister Patricia Maria, while Sister Mary Leonard, in her Treasurer’s Report, indicated that the Conference had \$9,000 in Savings and close to \$1,500 in the bank. At least the organization’s financial condition was healthy.

In the Cabinet Liaison Committee report, Dr. R. Clare expressed his disappointment that the expected meeting with the Cabinet Committee could not be arranged before this Annual Meeting. We shall note in a subsequent report that the meeting was finally held on October 26, and a report will be given later.

Mr. B. D. Stanton, member of the Advisory Board and Chairman of the Bylaws Revision Committee, presented his report on the Bylaws revisions. The committee, having been given its task as a result of the Convention resolution of 1966, the most striking change proposed was in the composition of the Board of Directors which hereafter would allow the election of five lay persons and six sisters. This historic event brought new vigor to the Conference.

Sister C. Leclerc, Chair of the Committee on Nursing, gave her report which indicated the enormous amount of work accomplished during the year, as well as the concerns still evident on the nursing education scene. Because of other work pressures, Sister Leclerc announced that she would be unable to continue as Chair of the committee. Dr. R. Clare proposed a vote of thanks to Sister Leclerc for the report and for her work on the Committee on Nursing.

In addition to business, the participants at the Convention were served with a delightful contribution by a renowned speaker, Father Trafford Maher, S.J., from St. Louis University. He spoke on "What Makes People Tick" and "The Good Communicator." There was also a talk by Dr. J. W. Quinn from the R.C. Separate Schools in Calgary on "The Future of Nursing in Alberta," followed by a panel chaired by Father R. Pendergast, O.S.B., St. Joseph's College, Edmonton.

Sister Maria Labrecque, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers for 1967-68. There were no further nominations from the floor.

Honorary President:	Archbishop A. Jordan, Edmonton
President:	Sister John Marie, Jasper
Vice President:	Dr. Irial Gogan, Calgary
Secretary:	Sister Patricia Maria, Lethbridge
Treasurer:	Mr. E. T. Donnachie
Directors:	Sister L. Garneau
	Sister B. Knopic
	Sister Mary
	Mr. W. K. Moore
	Sister E. Royer

Mr. B. D. Stanton
Mr. George Van*
Chaplain: Very Reverend J. O'Brien, Calgary

*resigned in January, 1968 and was replaced by Mr. Robert Aman.

The Year 1967-68

Sister Designate on A.H.A. Board - Meeting with Cabinet - Chaplains' salaries - Building of chapels - Working capital and equity - Nursing Education - St. John's Hospital's construction approved - Edmonton General Hospital School of Nursing affiliated with College St. Jean - Bishop Klein died - Bishop O'Byrne appointed - Delegates to C.H.A. Convention - Founding of A.P.C.A. - Dr. Clare, new A.H.A. President - Medical Ethics Committee - Chaplains' Institute - C.H.C.A. Minutes to C.H.A.C. - Promotion for Monsignor J. O'Brien - No correspondence available - Alberta Catholic Welfare Association

The new Executive met immediately following the convention to appoint the new C.H.C.A. President, Sister John Marie, as the Sister designate on the A.H.A. Board of Directors.(76)

On October 26, the meeting with Cabinet representatives was held in Dr. J. D. Ross's office and chaired by the Honorable Mr. Aalborg. Like any previous meeting of that kind, "the entire meeting was conducted in an extremely cordial and friendly atmosphere," but very little was revealed in the Minutes.

According to the Government, chaplains' salaries "are the responsibility of the churches involved." Building costs of chapels: the cost of \$35,000 appeared excessive in relation to the size of the hospital (Killam), but an agreement was "reached with the Misericordia Hospital, and would apply to other Catholic hospitals. " Landscaping and parking were discussed without any decision being reached. Erosion of working capital and equity were also on the agenda with no solution recorded. The Nursing Education topic caused Dr. J. D. Ross "to invite Dr. I. Gogan to carry out a confidential cost study on the gross costs of operation of schools of nursing." This report was tabled with C.H.C.A. Board in January, 1968 as "confidential".

The minutes of the November 16, 1967, Board meeting indicated the announcement that the plans for St. John's Hospital in Edson were going ahead and tenders would be called in January, 1968.

The new Chair of the Committee on Nursing was Sister L. Garneau who recently returned to Alberta. At the January 26, 1968, meeting,(77) she announced the plan of Edmonton General Hospital School of Nursing to initiate a two-year program in September, 1968, in conjunction with College St. Jean. It was also mentioned that possibly the Misericordia Hospital School of Nursing might enter the project as well, although in the end this did not occur.

The Conference learned, with regret, of the untimely death of Bishop Klein on February 3, 1968, less than one year after his installation as Bishop of Calgary. It took several months before his successor, Bishop Paul O'Byrne, was installed, on August 23, 1968. A letter of congratulation was sent to the new Bishop.

The Canadian Hospital Association announced that it would be holding its first National Convention in Vancouver, May 29-31, 1968. Two delegates of C.H.C.A., Sister John Marie and Mr. E. T. Donnachie, were appointed to attend.

An interesting development for Chaplains was reported in the March 14, 1968 Board minutes as a result of a Pastoral Institute which Father W. Irwin attended in Ottawa. Monsignor J. O'Brien was asked to "look into the possibility of requesting the Alberta Hospital Association to sponsor an Institute for Chaplains of all denominations to help define their role in the hospital team." Today's Alberta Pastoral Care Association (A.P.C.A.) claims its founding to that initiative of C.H.C.A., a fact noted in a recent A.P.C.A. brochure.

Another news item worth mentioning is that Dr. R. Clare became the new President of the Alberta Hospital Association. Having one more strong supporter at the A.H.A. was good news for C.H.C.A.

The minutes of the May 17 Board meeting refer to a Medical Ethics Committee of C.H.C.A. It is a recognized fact that Catholic hospitals have always been in the forefront on matters related to respect for life and ethical questions related to patient care.

Mr. R. G. Aman, Chair of the Chaplains' Committee, reported to the Board of plans for a Chaplains' Institute to be held in Calgary, September 24 and 25. Father Norman Andries, President, Catholic Hospital Chaplains' Association of Canada, and chaplain at the Regina Grey Nuns Hospital, had been invited to participate in the Institute. Later, at the September 6 meeting, Mr. Aman proposed that Chaplains of other denominations be invited to attend the Institute if they so wished. The Board agreed to this proposal.

It was at the September 6, 1968, meeting that a letter from C.H.A.C. was read advising that in the future, minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings would be circulated to the secretary of the Conference. This practice has been continued to this day and has proved a very helpful means of communicating with our national body.

At the same meeting, the Board voted to convey a message of congratulation to Monsignor J. O'Brien on his recent appointment as Vicar General of the Diocese of Calgary.

In searching through C.H.C.A. files, there was no correspondence found between 1964 and 1968. However, well kept minutes have helped the writer to trace major events and follow some of the progress of the Conference.

On August 26, 1968, Brother Christopher den Ridder, President of the Alberta Catholic Welfare Association, (A.C.W.A.), wrote to C.H.C.A. President, Sister John Marie, with a very unexpected yet flattering request. The following motion of A.C.W.A., is self explanatory: "That we ask the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Association to change its name to the Alberta Catholic Health and Welfare Association and to accept the Alberta Catholic Welfare Association as a standing committee on Welfare." Following the September 6, C.H.C.A. Board meeting, Sister Patricia Maria, Secretary, sent the following message to A.C.W.A. "... It was the feeling of the Board of Directors that this matter should be referred to the Hierarchy as the coordination of various agencies in the Church should come under their jurisdiction. Furthermore, the Provincial Conference, holding membership in the Catholic Hospital Association of Canada, would not be empowered for such a constitutional change as outlined in the motion of your meeting."(78)

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting

Convention held in Calgary - Silver Jubilee of CHCA - New Board

The 1968 Convention was held at the Palliser Hotel in Calgary on September 26 and 27, following the Chaplains' Institute. Eighty-five people attended the Convention. The Chairman of arrangements, Mr. E. T. Donnachie, suggested that "since this is the Silver Jubilee of the Conference, some recognition be made of those who have by their service contributed in some outstanding way to the Conference of Alberta" (January 14 meeting). There was only a brief mention of the 25th Anniversary of C.H.C.A. by President Sister John Marie in her annual report to the Assembly.

At the September 6 meeting, the Board agreed to cover Convention expenses of Board members who are not employed in a hospital.

The theme of the 1968 Convention did not surface in minutes nor in the Convention report. The Board meeting of November 1, 1968, thanked “Mr. E. Donnachie and his committee for the planning of a successful Convention.”

The 1968-69 Board members, as listed in Board minutes, are as follows:

Honorary President:	Archbishop A. Jordan, Edmonton
President:	Dr. Irial Gogan, Calgary
Past President:	Sister John Marie, Jasper
Vice President:	Sister Mary Legris, Barrhead
Secretary:	Sister Alice Romanchuk, Calgary
Treasurer:	Mr. E. Donnachie, Calgary
Other Members:	Mr. R. Aman
	Sister L. Garneau
	Sister B. Knopic
	Sister Mary Lourdes
	Mr. K. Moore
	Mr. B. Stanton

The Year 1968-69

First lay President - Report on equity - Legal counsel required - Meeting with major Superiors - Chaplains' Association - President to keep Bishops informed

This marked in history the first time a lay President was elected in the person of Dr. Irial Gogan, Executive Director of Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary.

A lengthy report on the Equity question was given by Dr. I. Gogan at the November 1, 1968 meeting.(79) At a recent meeting with the Cabinet Liaison Committee, a statement of eight principles was presented by Government. Even with sketchy details, the following points are listed:

- January 1, 1959 will be the date at which owners' equity should be determined.
- In establishing equity, owners will be eligible for a nominal rate of interest of not less than 3 percent compounded yearly.
- In the event that a Catholic hospital may wish to withdraw from the field and relinquish its equity, compensation will include:

-
- net real property assets.
 - net real property assets, other than land, as appraised on January 1, 1959, less debts assumed by the Provincial Government.
 - land market value at the date of sale.
 - value of the revenue fund assets less any outstanding revenue fund liabilities.

The above principles would prove extremely important in the not-too-distant future as a large number of sponsors of Catholic hospitals were planning to relinquish ownership of their institution. At this point, the matter of equity was still partly cloudy and uncertain, and the need for legal counsel was urgently recognized. Mr. L. A. Desrochers was appointed as the C.H.C.A.'s legal advisor at the January 23, 1969, Board meeting.

The May 2, 1969, Board meeting raised further need for consultation with major superiors as shown in the following motion: "that a meeting of major superiors of the Orders operating hospitals in Alberta be called in Ottawa, May 23 and 24, to discuss the Equity Committee Report." The meeting was held at the Skyline Hotel in Ottawa as planned, but no minutes could be found.

It was in July 1969 that the new Misericordia Hospital opened in the west end of Edmonton. The new building accommodated 555 patients and 100 newborns compared to 440 and 60 in the Oliver location where the Sisters of Misericordia had served since 1900.(80)

The Chaplains' Association was gradually taking shape. On November 1, the Board approved a standing committee on chaplains with four priests: Father T. Kroetch, Father J. St. Arnaud, Father E. Rheaume, and Father J. Nowakowski. A meeting of an interdenominational association of chaplains was held in Red Deer on February 10, and Mr. R. Aman attended. On November 4 of that year, their Bylaws were completed; they were approved on March 11, 1970, with the name: "Hospital Pastoral Care Association of Alberta."

It seems that Monsignor J. O'Brien is no longer a member of the Board, but the following motion ensured that communications would continue: "... since we do not have a representative of the Bishops to attend our meeting, we

delegate our President, Dr. I. Gogan, to keep the Bishops informed regarding the Catholic Hospital Conference of Alberta activities, and that we send each Bishop a copy of the minutes of the meetings.” Later, C.H.A.C. Executive Director, Father M. Dussault, in a letter to Mr. R. Aman, advised: “... the Bishops have the last word to say in this ...”(November 28, 1968). This arrangement lasted until January 23, 1970, when the minutes of the Board meeting report the appointment of Father L. Bonner to fill a vacancy on the Board.

The Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting

Presence of non-Catholics at Convention - Two Bishops participating - New Board

The convention was held at the Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton, on October 9 and 10, 1969. There were 56 voting and 33 non-voting delegates, including four representatives from non-Catholic hospitals. The presence of non-Catholic representation was a first in Alberta, and it resulted from a motion passed at the May 2nd Board meeting, thus enriching the future of C.H.C.A.

It is noted that Archbishop A. Jordan attended the Convention and celebrated a “Folk Mass” at the end of the first day. Bishop Paul O’Byrne spoke on “Why the Catholic Hospital Conference of Alberta?”

The 1969-70 membership on the Board of Directors appears as follows in the post-convention Board minutes of October 10:

Honorary President:	Archbishop A. Jordan, Edmonton
President:	Sister John Marie, Jasper
Past President:	Dr. Irial Gogan, Calgary
Vice President:	Dr. R. Clare, Edmonton
Secretary:	Sister C. Leclerc, Edmonton
Treasurer:	Mr. R. Aman, Edmonton
Directors:	Sister L. Garneau
	Mr. C. W. B. Gravett
	Sister B. Knopic
	Sister E. Martin
	Sister Mary Lourdes
	Mr. K. Wilson
Chaplain:	Father L. Bonner

The Year 1969-70

C.H.C.A. representative on A.H.A. Board - Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary - Storage and retrieval of C.H.C.A. documentation - Hospital Pastoral Care Association first annual meeting - Nominations for C.H.A.C. Board - Killam honored a Sister

A short post-convention Board meeting was held on October 10, 1969, in order to appoint the C.H.C.A. representative on A.H.A. Board. Dr. I. Gogan, Past President, agreed to continue in this capacity. This was the year when Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary, was sold to the Government and shortly after that nomination, Dr. Gogan sent a letter to the C.H.C.A. Board, submitting his resignation from C.H.C.A. and A.H.A. Boards, the reason being that his hospital no longer qualified as a member of C.H.C.A. For the same reason, Mr. E. T. Donnachie also tendered his resignation.(81)

Concerning the sale of Holy Cross Hospital, the Grey Nuns' Archives contain revealing correspondence between the Provincial Superior, Sister Fernande Dussault and Bishop Paul O'Byrne of Calgary. A letter of November 17, 1970 from Sister Dussault includes the presentation of a very generous donation to the Diocese of Calgary in appreciation for Bishop O'Byrne's "concern, advice and cooperation" while the sisters ministered to the sick in Calgary from 1891 to 1970. In response, Bishop O'Byrne wrote on November 19, 1970: "We already feel the loss of their (the Grey Nuns) presence and leadership in the Holy Cross Hospital... I do not intend to make any public announcement relative to your generous gift... It will be our desire to use this money to further the growth of the Church in this area..."(82)

For the first time, on January 23, 1970, Board minutes officially noted the frustration of executive officers regarding the storage and retrieval of Conference documentation. Mr. R. Aman was given the task of investigating various methods of improvement and of making recommendations. At the February 27 meeting, the Board was happy to approve the proposal: "Mr. Murray Ross, Executive Director of A.H.A. is willing to provide space for storing documents and to make the permanent mailing address of the Conference the same as the A.H.A." This transfer was reported as "almost completed" at the October 30, 1970, Board meeting.

The first annual meeting of the Hospital Pastoral Care Association of Alberta was held at the Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton, on March 11, 1970, with Cardinal G. Flahiff as speaker. The Catholic chaplains met the preceding day

with Bishop E. Gagnon as speaker. Mr. R. Aman remained C.H.C.A. representative with both groups and reported as well to A.H.A. on the progress observed.

This year, C.H.A.C. required two nominations from each Conference as representatives on their Board: one as C.H.C.A. representative and one as member-at-large. Mr. R. Aman was appointed as C.H.C.A. representative and Sister B. Knopic's name was submitted as nominee for the member-at-large position.

The September 17, 1970, Board meeting received information about an Appreciation Night by the Killam community on September 12 in recognition for the services rendered by Sister Mary Lourdes over a period of more than 30 years. C.H.C.A. Board members rejoiced with their colleague and sent her a telegram of congratulation.

The Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting

Archbishop A. Jordan and Bishop P. O'Byrne present -Medico-Moral Guide - Mr. Gravett congratulated - New Board

Plans for the October 1-2, 1970, C.H.C.A. Convention were well advanced at the April 22, Board meeting. The place selected was Chateau Lacombe. Archbishop A. Jordan celebrated Mass and Bishop P. O'Byrne participated in the programme. The only subject matter was the: Medico-Moral Guidelines. Members of the Hospital Pastoral Care Association were invited for the educational sessions. A copy of the new C.H.A.C. Medico-Moral Guide was to be included with pre-registration material. The fee set was \$20 per registrant, which included the cost of the banquet, and a daily fee of \$5 for the education session.

At a post-convention meeting, members of the Board expressed appreciation and extended congratulations "to Mr. Gravett and to the members of his committee for the excellent work done in the preparation and the management of the convention."

Minutes of meetings subsequent to the convention list the following members of the 1970-71 Board of Directors:

Honorary President:	Archbishop A. Jordan, Edmonton
President:	Dr. Rupert Clare, Edmonton
Past President:	Sister John Marie, Jasper

Vice President:	Sister Ellen Martin, Edmonton
Secretary:	Sister Cecile Leclerc
Treasurer:	Mr. R. G. Aman, Edmonton
Other Members:	Sister Rose Bekar
	Father Lawrence Bonner
	Mr. C. W. B. Gravett
	Sister Mary of Calvary
	Mr. Ken Wilson

The Year 1970-71

A.H.A. representative appointed - Our Lady's Hospital - St. Therese Hospital - Edmonton General Hospital Board of Management - Concerns re: equity payments referred to Minister of Health - Meeting with Bishops - Medico-Moral Committee discussed - Laval Project -Chaplains' functions and preparation - Newsletter sent to members - Membership fees discussed - Seton Hospital - Spirit River Hospital - Letters to politicians re: abortion

At the October 2, post-convention meeting, the Board appointed Mr. C.W.B. Gravett as A.H.A. representative. That meeting also revived the Equity Committee "in view of the importance of maintaining a liaison with the Minister of Health on this vital matter."

A letter from Sister Lucienne Garneau, Administrator of Ste. Therese Hospital in St. Paul, informed the President, Dr. R. Clare, "that the Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns) intend to relinquish ownership and eventually the administration of that hospital." This became effective on January 1, 1971.

The Sisters of Service rescinded ownership of Our Lady's Hospital in Vilna in 1970. After several years of struggle, the hospital was sold to the Government. The Sisters had provided forty-two years of service to the people of Vilna and surrounding areas.

Sister Fernande Dussault, President, The General Hospital (Grey Nuns) of Edmonton, announced, in a letter, the establishment of a Board of Management at the Edmonton General Hospital. The first meeting was held on October 8, 1970.

Dr. R. Clare referred to a number of letters received from hospitals concerning equity payments. Only 15 of the 28 hospitals who answered a recent

questionnaire from C.H.C.A. had received payment of equity in 1969. The Board requested a meeting with the Minister of Health “in view of the unfulfilled commitments of the Department of Health towards a certain number of hospitals...” It was also decided to inform Mr. Murray Ross of the plan. That meeting was held in the early part of November and resulted in a promise by the Minister to give “prompt consideration” to paying the equity to Catholic hospitals.

The Board decided, at the October 30 meeting, to meet with the Catholic Bishops of Alberta, as there were specific concerns in Catholic hospitals to discuss with them. That meeting was held Friday, November 20, in the Archdiocesan office. The purpose of the discussion was to maintain open lines of communication with the Bishops; to acquaint them with present trends and issues; to seek their advice on medico-moral problems; to discuss the future role of Catholic hospitals; and to discuss specific issues pertaining to Pastoral Care in Catholic hospitals.

Archbishop A. Jordan and Bishop H. Routhier were present at the meeting. The question of equity was explained and recent progress was noted. The trend of the relinquishing of ownership and the administration of hospitals which began in the Sixties was noted with regret. Both members of the hierarchy expressed deep concern because “Catholics are left without guidance to face the issues of medico-moral problems... The Sisters do not seem to be aware of this moral obligation...,” said Archbishop A. Jordan. There was a recommendation concerning medico-moral problems that “the first step... would be to make sure that hospital personnel are very well aware of the moral principles. The trend in Canada was to establish provincial medico-moral committees, and this possibility was discussed several times.

The Bishops were apprised of the Laval Research Project on the Future Role of Catholic Hospitals in Canada. This project was carried out jointly with C.H.A.C., and Sister Ellen Martin from Edmonton was employed to assist in this project.

The last point of discussion concerned the Chaplains’ functions and preparation. C.H.C.A. suggested to the Bishops “that consideration be given to the following criteria in appointing a Chaplain:

- he should be acceptable to the administrator.
- he should be interested in that particular field.

-
- he should be prepared for Pastoral Care. It was suggested that training centers be established in Western Canada.
 - his appointment should be for a minimum of 3 to 5 years.

Several important issues have been handled recently and the President recognized the need to inform all members through a newsletter. It seems that the content of the meeting with the Bishops may have constituted the main part of the newsletter which was likely mailed to all members in early December, 1970.

Membership fees were discussed at length at the January 22, 1971, Board meeting.(83) C.H.C.A. member hospitals paid \$2 per rated bed to a maximum of 100 beds and they also paid \$25 with an additional \$0.75 per rated adult bed to the national body, C.H.A.C.

With the decreasing number of member hospitals, C.H.C.A. reviewed its five-year old fee structure and recommended a 50% increase to \$3 per rated bed to a maximum of 100 beds. The implementation of this decision did not occur in 1972. It was also suggested that in view of a decrease in institutional membership, consideration be given to the introduction in the Constitution, of personal memberships. In addition, a motion was made for the “disbanding of the Catholic Hospital Association of Canada...” (Twenty years later, C.H.A.C. is still functioning and has recently received a new injection of energy while celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary in 1989.)

The Sisters of Charity of Halifax, who owned and operated Seton Hospital in Jasper, had on several occasions, expressed their anxiety regarding the future ownership of their hospital. Through encouragement and new decisions, they had continued courageously to minister in that location since 1930, but changing circumstances required that the Sisters leave the hospital in April, 1971. On April 3, 1971, the Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce held a Testimonial Dinner to honor the Sisters of Seton Hospital. Dr. R. Clare delegated Sister B. Knopik to represent C.H.C.A. for this formal event.

Another member institution, Holy Cross Hospital in Spirit River was sold to Government. Founded by the Grey Nuns of Ottawa in 1941, the hospital had remained under Catholic ownership for thirty years.

In the early part of 1971, several members of C.H.C.A. and the Board, individually and collectively, wrote letters to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and

Justice Minister John Turner “to express concern and to protest liberalization of laws governing abortion in Canada.”(84) Letters of acknowledgement were received in return.

The Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting

Convention held in Jasper - Laval Project - Resolutions re: abortion, personal membership, Chaplains' Committee - Pastoral Care - Proposal for a change of name - New Board

In order to avoid a conflict with C.H.A.C. Convention, the program for the 1971 C.H.C.A. convention was altered slightly to begin at 1300 hours on September 30 and end at noon on October 2, 1971. Jasper was the chosen site, to the delight of the registrants.

Archbishop A. Jordan gave the opening invocation and brought greetings to the assembly. The major topic on the agenda related to the Laval Research Project: “The Future Role of Catholic Hospitals.” Sister Berthe Dorais was the main speaker and addressed the audience: “Past, Present and Future of Catholic Hospitals.” A panel: “The Laymen’s View” was offered by Messrs. Louis Desrochers, Pat French, Gerry Lang and Gordon Pickering. Another panel: “The Sisters’ View” was presented by Sisters Rose Bekar, Clarissa, Marie Labrecque, and Ellen Martin.

Resolutions presented and voted on at the Convention covered the issue of abortion and the need to apply political pressure to obtain legislation that would recognize the rights of the unborn and the dignity of human life.

Other resolutions directed the Board to revise the Constitution in effect since 1967 in order to provide for personal memberships, revitalize the Chaplains’ Committee, and provide guidance in the establishment of Pastoral Care Departments. The Board was given a mandate to “participate in the establishment of clinics, to protect birth right, to help eradicate the abuse of drugs and alcohol, and to aid the retarded, the handicapped, and deprived groups.” That program was likely more than the Board could ever tackle within a short year!

This Convention also voted on a motion to change the name of “Catholic Hospital Conference of Alberta” to “Catholic Health Conference of Alberta.” This motion was tabled to be studied further.

The new Board of Directors for 1971-72 was as follows:

Honorary President: Archbishop A. Jordan, Edmonton
President: Sister Ellen Martin, Edmonton
Past President: Dr. R. Clare, Edmonton
Vice President: Mr. C. W. B. Gravett, Edmonton
Secretary: Sister Stanislaus, Willingdon
Treasurer: Mr. K. Wilson, Edmonton
Other Members: Sister Rose Bekar, Camrose
Dr. John Lipinski, Edmonton
Rev. Don MacDonald, Edmonton
Sister Mary Ellen O'Neill, Vegreville
Sister Mary of Calvary, Lethbridge
Sister Mary Roberts, Edson

The Year 1971-72

A.H.A. representative appointed - Meeting with Bishops - Sisters' letters to President re: their belief of Catholic hospitals - President wrote to the Bishops - Roots of A.C.H.F. - Bishops request long and short range plans of major Superiors — 25 hospitals remaining - President's letter to Bishops - Misericordia Hospital - Revision of Bylaws - Ethical issues - St. Vincent's Hospital - H.P.C.A.A. sent a brief to Government requesting Pastoral Care funding - Edmonton General Hospital School of Nursing closed - Grant MacEwan Community College established

For some unknown reason, the C.H.C.A. representative to A.H.A. was not appointed immediately after the Convention as was usually done. Neither was there an appointment made at the October meeting. At the January 14, 1972, meeting, the Board appointed Mr. C.W.B. Gravett to that position.(85)

Early in the year 1971-72, the Board decided to request a formal meeting with the Bishops of Alberta to discuss the future of Catholic Hospitals in Alberta. That meeting was first scheduled for November 26 and then postponed to January 14, 1972, because of several Bishops being unable to attend on that day.

The main items of discussion with the Bishops were: 1) personnel; 2) medico-moral issues; 3) finances; 4) need for permanent liaison with the Bishops; and 5) what could the Bishops do to help the Catholic hospitals.

The entire Board met on January 14, 1972, with Archbishops A. Jordan and H. Routhier and Bishops P. O'Byrne and E. Gagnon. The two groups shared the following information as recorded in the Minutes:

- The contact person between the Board and the Bishops is Father Don MacDonald.

- The Bishops would need to know what will be the requirements for the position of Chaplain in Hospitals according to new standards of Pastoral Care.

- There is presently a committee of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops with the Canadian Religious Conference, and C.H.A.C. involved in the study of medico-moral problems.

- Regarding lack of personnel, Archbishop A. Jordan suggested that an Alberta CUSO (Canadian University Services Overseas) be formed, and, in this way, alleviate the lack of personnel.

At the January Board meeting, it was suggested that the Sisters on the Board write to President Ellen Martin indicating their personal and/or community beliefs on Catholic hospitals. Several moving testimonies were received.(86) It is tempting to quote them in total, but, for the sake of brevity, short excerpts will suffice to give a sense of these messages: "It is our belief that, barring exceptional cases where circumstances necessitate such withdrawal, we, as religious, are failing the Church in the mission given it by Christ when we surrender ownership and/or operation of our Catholic hospitals." Another writer stated: "I appeal to you, the President of C.H.C.A. to communicate my concern to His Grace, Archbishop Jordan. We ask his leadership in developing a structural resource body to which we can appeal and communicate our mutual problems."

With these important statements on hand, the President sent a letter to Archbishop Jordan which, in part, indicated: "... it might still be possible through the cooperation of the Bishops, the Motherhouses, and the C.H.C.A., to establish a mechanism whereby the philosophy of Catholic hospitals could be maintained in select areas... We think that an important step for religious communities to take at this time is to make known... their plans... to their Bishop and the Conference so that possible arrangements may be discussed prior to the closure of hospitals."

It is easy to see at the time of writing this history that the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation of the mid-seventies saw its roots in the repeated pleas and prayer of C.H.C.A.

On January 27, 1972, the Bishops wrote to all major Superiors having hospitals in their diocese to request a statement of their long-range plans concerning the hospitals that they presently operate.

A total of fourteen replies are filed at C.H.C.A. office. Almost all major Superiors refer to the decreasing number of Sisters, fiscal difficulties, and anxiety over the growing trend of medico-moral issues in hospitals as the reasons for relinquishing ownership and operation of the hospitals.

From the 32 Catholic hospitals recorded in the McLean compilation in 1956,(87) there were just 25 hospitals left under Catholic auspices in Alberta in early 1972. The trend, unfortunately, was to continue throughout part of the seventies.

President Sister Ellen Martin wrote to all six Bishops of Alberta with a copy to all C.H.C.A. Board members on May 15, 1972, and gave the following result of recent correspondence and meetings with owners of all Catholic hospitals.

- A. Maintenance of Ownership as long as feasible:
Bonnyville, Edmonton General, Galahad, Killam, Trochu, Vegreville and Edson - 7.
- B. Situation presently under study:
Banff, Barrhead, Castor, Daysland, Misericordia, Lethbridge, and Westlock - 7.
- C. Relinquishment within a year or so:
Hardisty, Lac La Biche, Pincher Creek, Radway - 4
- D. No information received:
Camrose, Mundare, Willingdon, St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital in Edmonton, Hotel-Dieu Auxiliary Hospital in Whitelaw - 5

Specifically with regard to the Misericordia Hospital, Sister Clemence Brabant, Superior General of the Sisters of Misericordia wrote to Archbishop A. Jordan on February 17, 1972, indicating their intention to leave ownership of

their hospital in Edmonton. However, it would be several years before any major change occurred in this situation.

The Bylaws were revised by Dr. J. J. Lipinski following a resolution of the 1971 Annual meeting. At the August 29 Board meeting, a final draft was approved to be presented to the General assembly in 1971.

There was mounting anxiety in Catholic hospitals with regard to the increasing number of areas in health care which were entangled with ethical issues such as genetics, transplants, trans-sexual procedures, abortions, sterilization, etc. After discussing this concern from all angles, the Board became aware that the problem exceeded provincial borders. Consequently, a resolution was sent to C.H.A.C. asking the national body to develop a position paper on these matters, issue a statement, and plan educational programs. C.H.C.A. also recommended C.H.A.C. to request the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops "to take these problems under immediate study and develop directives in these areas."

In June, 1972, the Board was informed that the Daughters of Jesus were experiencing difficulties with St. Vincent's Hospital in Pincher Creek. Their hospital was "undergoing changes, and was to be under the direction of an entirely lay board." Nonetheless, St. Vincent's Hospital would continue operation as a Catholic hospital for several more years.

In the Spring of 1972, the Hospital Pastoral Care Association of Alberta (HPCAA) presented a Brief to the Honorable Peter Lougheed, Premier of Alberta, requesting that Pastoral Care be funded in the hospitals as other patient care services. Sister Ellen Martin on behalf of C.H.C.A. Board, wrote to Reverend James Taylor, President of HPCAA, to endorse and support the request. She noted: "We firmly believe in the necessity of pastoral care as an integral part of the health care delivery system of today and we will certainly promote all endeavors in this direction." The Brief was presented to the Cabinet on July 12, and C.H.C.A. President, Sister Ellen Martin, attended the presentation along with members of HPCAA. Two decades have passed since this request was presented, and, in spite of repeated Briefs and meetings, no progress has been recorded even by the early 1990's. However, most Catholic hospitals have developed and maintained Pastoral Care departments because the owners and administrators are committed to wholistic care of patients.

In September, 1972, the Edmonton General Hospital School of Nursing was closed in favor of the newly developed Nursing Program at Grant MacEwan

Community College. This program was directed by Sister Therese Castonguay and it was gratifying to note that a course in Health Sciences Ethics was included in the curriculum. Students obtained the major portion of their clinical experience at the Edmonton General Hospital, thus assuring exposure to a Christian environment throughout their nursing education program.

The Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting

Convention held in Jasper - New Board

Jasper Park Lodge was again the site of the Convention held on September 28 to 30, 1972. A number of themes were proposed to the Convention Committee Chair, Mr. K. Wilson, at the June 22 Board meeting but reports reveal that no particular theme was used. There were over eighty persons attending, and they represented 19 institutions.

The Chair of the Nominating Committee, Dr. R. Clare, prepared the slate of officers for 1972-73, which was accepted as follows:

Honorary President:	Archbishop A. Jordan, Edmonton
President:	Mr. C. W. B. Gravett, Edmonton
Past President:	Sister Ellen Martin, Edmonton
Vice President:	Sister Rose Bekar, Camrose
Secretary:	Sister Stanislaus, Willingdon
Treasurer:	Mr. K. L. Wilson, Edmonton
Directors:	Dr. J. J. Lipinski, Edmonton Rev. Don MacDonald, Edmonton Sister Mary of Calvary, Lethbridge Sister Mary Ellen O'Neill, Vegreville Sister Lucy Sheehan, Lac La Biche Mr. Ray Tetreau, Vegreville

The Year 1972-73

Personal membership - Testimonial to Dr. Clare - Bishops' Representative - Clinical Pastoral Education - St. Joseph's Hospital, Barrhead - Archbishop A. Jordan resigned - Archbishop J. N. MacNeil appointed - Communication with Bishops - Loss of seven hospitals

Revised Bylaws were in effect since the 1972 Convention providing for personal membership in the Conference and for a new position on the Board, that of a Bishops' Representative. The position of Honorary President did not

continue to appear on Board membership. As a result of this, the Bishops' representative took on a more active role as a Board member.

Personal membership was initiated under certain guidelines prepared earlier in that year. It was hoped that the new provision of C.H.A.C. for personal membership would eventually be coordinated with membership in Alberta. Two decades later, the question was still "under study" at both the national and the provincial levels.

A note of gratitude was inserted in the Minutes just before the end of 1972. On the December 1, 1972, the Board held a "testimonial dinner" to honor Dr. R. Clare for his many years of untiring service to the Conference. A presentation was made by the President, Mr. C. Gravett.

On April 3, 1973, the President, Mr. C. Gravett wrote to all the Bishops of Alberta expressing support of C.H.A.C.'s request "that a Bishop with interest be appointed to the Board of Directors of the Catholic Hospital Association of Canada, and that this not be a token representative appointment. It would be hoped that ... the Bishops of Alberta would attempt to have a Bishop representing them on the Board of Directors of the Catholic Hospital Conference of Alberta." This request resulted in the appointment of Archbishop H. Routhier as Bishops' Representative on C.H.C.A. Board.

At the May 25, 1973, Board meeting,(88) the President, Mr. C. Gravett, welcomed Archbishop H. Routhier as the Bishops' Representative on the Board. His contribution would bring much support and reassurance to the Conference in the years ahead.

Mr. R. Tetreau, being the C.H.C.A. representative at the C.H.A.C. Board, reported on the national association's activities. There was one comment of interest which was included in the September 7, 1973, Board minutes: "The need for a training program for Chaplains has been determined and it was felt that the C.H.A.C. should take the leadership in establishing an accredited chaplains' training program that would be recognized by all hospitals. Also approved was the establishment of a Pastoral Care Program." There was no mention of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at that time. (It is well known that the Church was still reluctant to recognize this method of educating Chaplains, likely because of CPE's interdenominational nature.) This "perceived weakness" was later to be recognized as a strength in Pastoral Care education. Two Catholic hospitals in Alberta began to offer a CPE Program later: Edmonton General in 1986 and Misericordia in 1987.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke announced to the Board their intention to relinquish the ownership and equity of their St. Joseph's Hospital in Barrhead. Also, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, Kingston, informed the Board of similar plans for their Providence Hospital in Daysland. This continued a regrettable trend which was to last several more years.

The Minutes of the September 7 Board meeting recorded that Archbishop A. Jordan had resigned as Archbishop and that his successor was Archbishop J. N. MacNeil, Bishop of Saint John, New Brunswick since 1969. The Board voted that appropriate letters be sent to both Archbishops on behalf of C.H.C.A. Deep gratitude was expressed to Archbishop A. Jordan for his many years of guidance to C.H.C.A. and a message of welcome, sincere good wishes and great expectations was extended to Archbishop MacNeil.

It was mentioned at the Board meeting that "there are difficulties in communication in dealing with the various echelons of authority..." Specifically mentioned were the Bishops as their advice and support has always been considered vital for our Catholic hospitals and Conference. Archbishop Routhier, in response, "requested that the President prepare a statement to this effect, stating the problems, and he would bring it to the attention of the Bishops." This letter was actually completed on July 16, 1974.

Alberta lost seven Catholic hospitals in 1972-73. Two of those (Barrhead and Daysland) were briefly mentioned in the Minutes. The other five (Hardisty, Radway, McLennan, High Prairie and Lac La Biche) were not reported in Minutes or correspondence. It seemed that so many losses overwhelmed C.H.C.A. and a spirit of numbness became prevalent. It is worth noting however that when selling Notre Dame du Lac Nursing Home in McLennan to the Hospital District in 1973, the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan reserved ownership of the Chapel. This was a significant innovation and a sign of hope for the Catholic population in that area.

The Thirtieth Annual Meeting

Convention held in Jasper - Chair, Nominating Committee - Vacancies on Board - Theme: "Our Challenge - Caring" - Government funding for Pastoral Care - Ethical issues - Staff orientation - Scope of C.H.C.A. - New Board

September 13 to 15, 1973, Jasper Park Lodge was the setting for the 1973 Convention. There were several technicalities to iron out during the Convention. The Board had to hold two special meetings during these days.

The immediate Past President, Sister Ellen Martin, having left Alberta, had resigned from her position on the Board. This left a vacancy to Chair the Nominating Committee. The Board voted in favor of having the President, Mr. C. Gravett, chair the Nominating Committee, since his term as President had been completed.

One more hurdle was faced by the Nominating Committee: the difficulty of filling all of the vacancies on the Board. At a special meeting during the Convention, the Board decided to arrange a meeting with Archbishop J. N. MacNeil concerning this problem as well as “the involvement of the hierarchy.”

The theme of the Convention was “Our Challenge - Caring.” The Invocation and Greetings from the Church was given by the new Archbishop of Edmonton, His Grace, Joseph N. MacNeil. The theme was covered by a keynote address given by Reverend George Fuller, and a panel discussion on “Complete Christian Care.”

In the past few years, the question of government funding for Pastoral Care in hospitals had been pursued more vigorously. The 1973 Annual Meeting passed a special resolution requesting such financial support. Two decades later, a positive answer from Government is still forthcoming.

Several other resolutions were voted in during the Annual Meeting:

- requesting guidance on ethical issues.
- expressing the need for assistance in staff orientation in the area of Christian philosophy.
- studying ways and means to expand the scope of the Conference to related health agencies and Christian-based voluntary health care institutions “to join in the formation of a Federation of Christian Health Services.”

Mr. C. Gravett, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for the year 1973-74:

President:	Sister Rose Bekar, Camrose
Past President:	Mr. C. W. B. Gravett, Edmonton
Vice President:	Mr. George Hennig, Edmonton
Secretary:	Sister Susan Pye, Camrose
Treasurer:	Mr. Ken Wilson

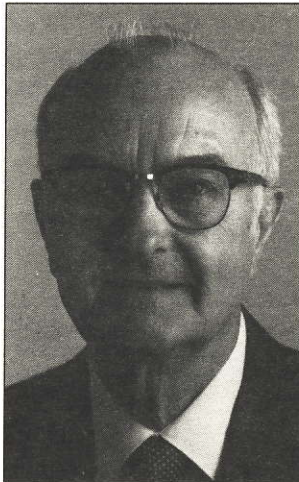
Directors:

Mr. M. E. Forestell
Sister Florence James
Rev. Don MacDonald
Sister Mary Ellen O'Neill
Sister Lucy Sheehan
Mr. Ray Tetreau

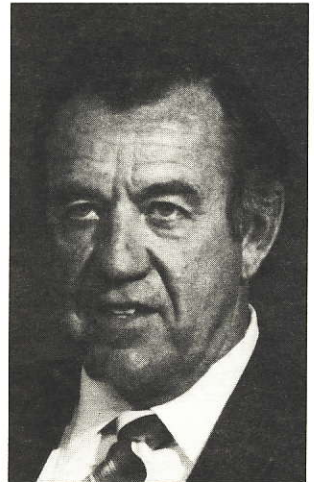
RECOGNITION AWARDS RECIPIENTS



Miss Mary Legris
1984



Dr. Rupert Clare
1984



Mr. John Barry
1984



Mr Pat French
1984



Dr. Melety Snihurowych
1985

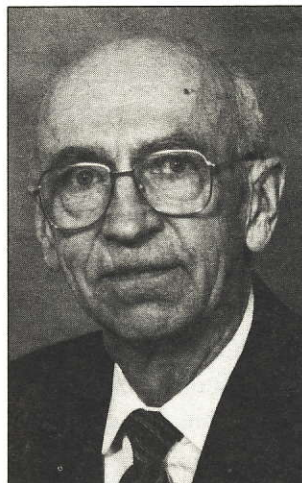
RECOGNITION AWARDS RECIPIENTS



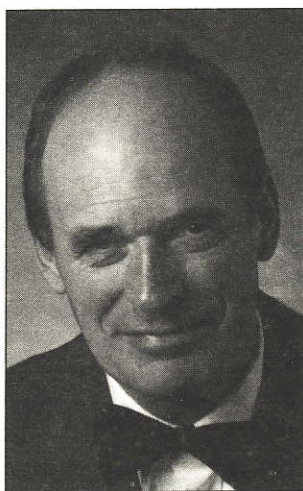
Sisters of Charity
(Grey Nuns) 1987
Sr. Faye Wylie
Provincial Superior



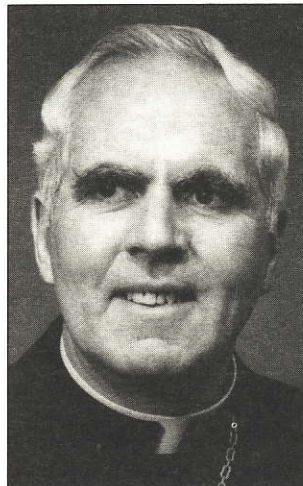
Dr. Harold MacNeil
1988



Mr. R.D. Gruenwald
1989



Mr. Peter Fuhrmann
1990



Special Award
Archbishop J.N. MacNeil
1990

CHAPTER V
THE FOURTH DECADE: 1973-74 to 1982-83
A TURNING POINT

The year 1973-74

Staff orientation committee - Government funding for Pastoral Care - 19 members remaining - Misericordia Hospital - Scope of C.H.C.A. studied - Communications with Bishops - National Seminar on Euthanasia

The Board seriously considered their new mandate at the beginning of the fourth decade of its history. The number of member hospitals had been reduced considerably in the previous decade. It was considered essential for C.H.C.A. to help stop this trend, and to strengthen its mission in the years ahead. The resolutions passed at the 1973 Annual Meeting were studied and action taken inasmuch as possible. One of these resolutions dealing with "staff orientation in the area of Christian philosophy", gave rise to the formation of a sub-committee chaired by Mr. Colin Carter. In an interim report dated January 15, 1974, the sub-committee recommended: "That any staff orientation programs in the area of Christian Philosophy, should come under the aegis of the Pastoral Care Department of each member hospital". The guideline may have been well received by hospitals having a Pastoral Care Department, but the guideline did not provide enough assistance to other member hospitals. President Sister Rose Bekar thanked Mr. C. Carter and his committee for the work done to date, and asked him to proceed "with the necessary action on these programs."

The perennial question of government funding for Pastoral Care was also the subject of a resolution voted in at the last Annual Meeting. It read as follows: "Be it resolved that the Catholic Hospital Conference of Alberta support fully the request of the Pastoral Care Association to the Alberta government that full recognition be given to the establishment of Pastoral Care Departments in health care institutions and that the financing of such departments be specifically included in the hospital budget." That resolution was forwarded to the A.H.A.'s forthcoming convention with a copy to Father W. Irwin, President of the Hospital Pastoral Care Association of Alberta (H.P.C.A.A.). In the spring of 1972, that Association had presented a similar request to the government.

In a letter to member hospitals on January 25, 1974, Sister Rose Bekar, C.H.C.A. President, informed them of correspondence received by Father W. Irwin from Dr. L.O. Bradley of the Alberta Hospital Services Commission with regard to funding of Pastoral Care in hospitals. An excerpt from Dr. Bradley's letter follows:

“... on a previous occasion, we have indicated that funds are being provided within the global budget in support of space, supplies, and secretarial support service ... to demonstrate the principle of the policy, we will be including \$1.00 in the budgets of hospitals in support of the Pastoral Care principle ... the Commission will not object ... a hospital board may allocate funds within the global budget for Pastoral Care, if the Board determine to grant priority to this particular area”.

This still remains the case today and Pastoral Care is still a non-funded service. It can be organized and can function only if a Board gives it priority. C.H.C.A. and H.P.C.A.A. have continued to press for government recognition but without a positive hearing. By contrast, some other provinces are known to provide for this component of holistic care which considers the spiritual needs of patients. It must be noted here that Pastoral Care shares this non-funded status with several other services in Alberta hospitals such as: research, education services, public relations, etc.

In a newsletter to the members, (89) the President noted in February, 1974, “At the present time there are 19 Active Institutional members in C.H.C.A., plus one with a change of ownership, but under Catholic control. In 1965, we had 35 Catholic hospitals.” The one hospital having changed its ownership is the Misericordia Hospital, Edmonton. Although plans were still ongoing, it was known that the Sisters of Misericorde were planning to sell their hospital to the government who, in turn, would contract the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation when it was created to operate the hospital. This approach, a new initiative in Alberta, was to establish a pattern for future similar endeavors. It will be further discussed in the section 1975-76.

On the matter of broadening the scope of C.H.C.A. to include other Christian health care institutions as recommended at the 1973 Annual meeting. A Task Force Committee, chaired by Mr. G.P. Hennig was functioning and noted some progress. A suggestion of the Task Force to re-name C.H.C.A.: “Christian Health Care Services Association of Alberta” did not materialize but work continued throughout 1973-74.

The matter of communication with the Bishops of Alberta remained an ongoing concern of the Conference. While he was President, Mr. C. Gravett had accepted the mandate of the Board to write to the Bishops and explain in detail the basis for that concern. As Past President, Mr. Gravett wrote the letter on July

15, 1974. The letter was delayed about 15 months - and made it difficult for him to recall and write specific examples of problems, but throughout the four page letter, the earnest desire of the Conference for the support and guidance of the Bishops was evident. Archbishop J. N. MacNeil quickly acknowledged Mr. C. Gravett's letter and indicated that the Bishops will be pleased to meet with C.H.C.A. and discuss this matter further.

Father Norman Andries, Executive Director of C.H.A.C. contacted C.H.C.A. early in 1974 to suggest holding a National Seminar on "Euthanasia" in Edmonton with the cooperation of the Conferences of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. This invitation was received with enthusiasm and soon the three provinces were busy preparing for the event which took place on October 3 and 4, 1974 at Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton. This seminar was attended by approximately three hundred people and was rated a huge success.

The Thirty-First Annual Meeting

Brief meeting - Medico-Moral Committee established -
C.H.C.A. rejects Euthanasia - Palliative Care - New Board -
New President's denomination noted

C.H.C.A. decided to hold its 1974 Annual Meeting immediately following the Seminar on "Euthanasia," on October 5, 1974 at Chateau Lacombe. There was no liturgical celebration as the meeting was only half a day. Only reports, resolutions and election of Board members appeared on the agenda.

On behalf of the Chaplains' Committee, Father D. MacDonald reported on the establishment of a Medical Moral Committee in October, 1974, to assist Catholic hospitals in ethical matters. A spontaneous vote of thanks was expressed to the Bishops of Alberta for their assistance in the creation of this committee.

One resolution dealt with the topic of "Euthanasia." It read as follows, "That the C.H.C.A. reaffirm the need of continuing and expanding support and sympathetic concern for the dying patient, that it does not approve of mercy killing, or euthanasia as a solution to the problems of the dying". (This happened several years before the opening of the first Palliative Care Unit at the Edmonton General Hospital in 1981.) In 1974, however, a movement was already active in Montreal and St. Boniface, Manitoba where Palliative Care Units were organized. This new approach to the care of the dying patient respects the

patient, the family, and the caregivers; it is directed at symptom control such as pain, anxiety, fear. This method of care helps the dying patients to live as fully as possible the short time remaining in their life. It is a far cry from euthanasia. It is living and journeying with the dying patients towards the ultimate meeting with their Creator.

The Nominating Committee chaired by Sr. Florence James presented its report as follows for the 1974-75 period:

President:	Mr. G. Hennig, Good Samaritan Society, Edmonton
Past President:	Sister Rose Bekar, Camrose
Vice-President:	Sister Stanislaus Soluk, Mundare
Secretary:	Sister Lucy Sheehan, Camrose
Treasurer:	Mr. Ray Pinkoski, Edmonton
Directors:	Mr. M. E. Forestell, Lethbridge Sister Mabel Foster, Radway Sister Florence James, Westlock Mr. John MacDonald, Edmonton Sister Alice Romanchuk, Edmonton Mr. Ray Tetreau, Vegreville
Bishops' Representative:	Archbishop Henri Routhier, Edmonton
Chaplains' Representative:	Rev. D. MacDonald, Edmonton

It should be noted that for the first time, the new President was from a Christian background other than Catholic. In his acceptance address, Mr. Hennig "expressed his appreciation for the confidence shown in electing him as President. He assured the membership that the Philosophy, Aims, and Objectives of the Catholic Hospital Conference of Alberta would be safeguarded and promoted during his presidency."

The year 1974-75

Nineteen institutional members - Sisters of St. Martha's 75th Anniversary - Mother Seton canonized - Archbishop Routhier's 30th Anniversary - Misericordia Hospital - Decrease in Catholic hospitals in Canada - C.H.A. membership discontinued - C.H.C.A. Board meetings on the move

A list of institutional members dated 1974 gives 19 institutions remaining in C.H.C.A. There were no other types of membership at this time. Two events concerning owners of Catholic hospitals in Alberta were mentioned

in the minutes of the Board meeting of July 11, 1975 (90). The 75th Anniversary of the Sisters of St. Martha who own St. Michael's Hospital in Lethbridge, and the canonization of Mother Elizabeth Seton on September 14, 1975. Mother Seton is the foundress of the Sisters of Charity of Halifax, owners of Immaculata Hospital, Westlock. C.H.C.A. noted these events with obvious pride and sent messages of congratulations to the two sisterhoods concerned: the Sisters of St. Martha and the Sisters of Charity of Halifax.

At the September 12 meeting, the Board extended congratulations to Archbishop Routhier on the 30th Anniversary of his episcopal consecration. His faithful presence at C.H.C.A. Board meetings remained a source of inspiration and comfort for Board members.

At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Board of the Misericordia Hospital made "an enlightening presentation of the present situation at the Hospital, "... and asked C.H.C.A. to consider the concept of the purchase of the Sisters of Misericorde equity in the Misericordia Hospital by the Catholic Hospital Conference of Alberta."

C.H.C.A. Board agreed to give serious consideration to the idea, review the Bylaws as to the possibility of such a transaction and present it to the membership for a decision. The year 1974-75 would end before a final decision was reached, but 1975-76 brought further developments of great significance.

A letter from Fr. Donat Chiasson to the President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), Archbishop Jean-Marie Fortier, was read at the Board meeting. It indicated a drastic decrease in Catholic hospitals in Canada. He said in part: "... in 1970 we had 60,954 beds; in 1975 we have 26,336 beds, well over 50% of a loss."⁹¹ We will recall that in Alberta alone, the decrease of Catholic hospitals was very significant - from 35 in 1965 to 19 in 1975, a loss of about 45% in 10 years.

In addition, C.H.C.A. had held full membership with the Canadian Hospital Association (C.H.A.) since the foundation of that organization, but revisions to the C.H.A.'s Bylaws would make the continuation of this membership impossible. Although the Conference attempted to prevent passing this article of C.H.A.'s new Bylaws, its efforts were unsuccessful. At the 1975 C.H.A. Annual Meeting in Ottawa, formal relationships between the provincial Catholic Conferences and C.H.A. were discontinued to the disappointment of C.H.C.A. Board of Directors.

The last meeting of C.H.C.A. Board to be held in the Alberta Blue Cross Building is recorded on May 23, 1975. There was no reason found in the minutes or correspondence for the change. One can surmise that the change of status with C.H.A. might bear some relationship to this event. The July 11, 1975 Board meeting was held at the Edmonton Separate School Board office, and subsequently at the Edmonton General Hospital or the Misericordia Hospital until a "home" was found for C.H.C.A.

The Thirty-Second Annual Meeting

Workshop on Christian Philosophy - C.H.A.C.'s financial status
- Canadian contribution to Pastoral Care - New name for
C.H.C.A. - President's "Thank you" - Accreditation of Pastoral
Care recommended -New Board

Immediately preceding the Annual Meeting October 30 and 31, 1975, C.H.C.A. held two one-day workshops on "Living Christian Philosophy in Health Care Services". The speaker and facilitator was Dr. Kevin Mooney from St. Paul University in Ottawa. Fifty persons attended each day, the limit requested by the speaker.

The 1975 Annual Meeting was held on November 1 at Chateau Lacombe. There were 46 persons present. At the beginning of the day, Dr. J. E. Bradley, Chairman of Alberta Hospital Services Commission, addressed the assembly. He spoke of changes that have occurred in health care over the last few years and specifically changes in cost.

Father Norman Andries, C.H.A.C. Executive Director, reported on behalf of the national body. He indicated with some anxiety, "If no aid is forthcoming, C.H.A.C. will financially cease to exist by September, 1976. Between 1970 and 1975 the number of beds in Canadian Catholic hospitals has decreased from 64,000 to 20,000."

Father Andries also referred to a letter from Honorable Marc Lalonde, Minister of Health, concerning the Federal Government's offer to pay 50% of the cost of Pastoral Care in health institutions, on condition that the Provincial Government picked up the other 50%. He added: "... to date only the provinces of Manitoba and Prince Edward Island have taken advantage of this offer."

C.H.C.A. Task Force Committee reported on the continuation of their work begun in 1973-74. One significant point was the recommendation that the name of the Conference be changed from "Catholic Hospital Conference of Alberta" to "Catholic Health-Care Conference of Alberta" maintaining the same abbreviation, C.H.C.A. This change became effective when the new Bylaws were revised.

President George Hennig reported on the activities of the past year and concluded his report by saying: "To you, the membership, I want to say "thank you" for having given me the opportunity of serving the Conference as your President. I sincerely hope I have not disappointed you. My relationship and experience with you has been a joyous one in which our respective Faiths have helped to support one another, and I look forward to my continued involvement with you in the future."

Among the resolutions presented, the following appeared to be of special interest: "Be it resolved that this Conference make representation to the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation through the appropriate channel to consider the requirement of, and to set out standards for, pastoral care departments in our health care institutions." (Standards for accreditation are now available for pastoral care, and this department has been visited by the accreditors along with other hospital services since 1986.)

Sister Rose Bekar gave her report as Chair of the Nominating Committee and presented the composition of the 1975-76 Board of Directors:

President:	Sister Stanislaus Soluk, Mundare
Past President:	Mr. George Hennig, Good Samaritan Society
Vice President:	Mr. Ray Tetreau, Vegreville
Secretary:	Mr. Norman Hanoski, Camrose
Treasurer:	Mr. Ray Pinkoski, Edmonton
Directors:	Mr. M. E. Forestell, Lethbridge Sister Mabel Foster, Radway Sister Aileen Gilles, Banff Sister Florence James, Westlock Mr. John E. MacDonald, Edmonton Sister Alice Romanchuk, Edmonton
Bishops' Representative:	Archbishop Henri Routhier
Chaplains' Representative:	Rev. Donald MacDonald

The year 1975-76

Statistics - Misericordia Hospital - A.C.H.F. created -Increased communications with related organizations - Sisters of Radway celebrated 50 years - Pastoral Care concerns

A list of Institutional Members for 1975 included 19 names for the record. Their location or name are given here:

General Hospitals: Banff, Bonnyville, Camrose, Castor, Edmonton General, Edson, Galahad, Killam, Lethbridge, Misericordia, Mundare, Radway, Trochu, Vegreville, Westlock and Willingdon.

Auxiliary Hospitals: St. Joseph's in Edmonton and in Whitelaw.

Nursing Homes: Youville Home in St. Albert.

Progress reports on the situation at the Misericordia Hospital indicate a change of direction towards retaining ownership under Catholic auspices. At the March 12, 1976 meeting (92), it was announced that C.H.C.A.'s Investigative and Future Involvement Committee "is active and that the formation of a Foundation concerning Voluntary Hospitals is underway." On April 21, 1976, a joint announcement was made by the Government and the Board of the Misericordia of an agreement reached, whereby the Alberta Government purchased the Sisters' equity in the hospital and then leased the hospital to the newly-formed Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation (A.C.H.F.) which was to operate the hospital as a voluntary organization.(93) Mr. J. P. French informed C.H.C.A. Board that A.C.H.F. Board will include the President of C.H.C.A., five Bishops from Alberta or their nominees, plus four other people appointed from the Catholic Hospitals and the Minister of Health or his/her nominee. The current agreement was to last for forty years with an option of an additional ten years. It was learned also that the Sisters of Misericorde left a substantial donation to the Foundation as a tribute to the people of Alberta.

At the C.H.C.A.'s Board meeting of April 9, 1976, Mr. French requested that C.H.C.A. Board ratify the action of the committee, which had been dealing with the Government for this important transaction.

Because of a lack of clarity about the new Foundation, C.H.C.A. Board was hesitant about formally appointing members to the A.C.H.F. Board. Following discussion and clarification, it was agreed that C.H.C.A. participate in

the formation of the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation, and that C.H.C.A. President, Sister S. Soluk, be appointed to the A.C.H.F. Board; and that the action of the committee be ratified by appointing Mr. John Barry, Judge E. D. Stack, Mr. C. Fred Barth and Mr. J. P. "Pat" French as the four lay members of the A.C.H.F. Board. On April 26, 1976, the Western Catholic Reporter published a comprehensive description of the recent changes at the Misericordia Hospital, entitled "Government buys hospital but status unchanged."(94)

On August 23, 1976, Archbishop MacNeil held a special meeting with the Executive of the Board in order "to clarify the makeup of the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation, as well as the involvement to date of the Bishops of Alberta, and to obtain the thoughts and input of C.H.C.A." This was in line with recent amendments to the Charter of Incorporation. His Grace informed the Board that the five Bishop members will appoint the Board of Directors. It seemed, therefore, that the April 9, 1976 C.H.C.A. decision to ratify the proposed A.C.H.F. Board membership was no longer valid. Consequently, C.H.C.A. and A.C.H.F. would remain two parallel organizations functioning almost totally independent of each other until later in history when a Planning Council was to be formed, and still later when a joint Executive Director was appointed. This initiated a new era ensuring the survival of voluntary denominational hospitals, and drastically reversing the trend begun over a decade ago when Catholic Hospitals seemed doomed to disappear.

Concurrently, with the negotiations on behalf of the Misericordia Hospital, C.H.C.A. Board communicated actively with the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Women's League and the Edmonton Coalition for Life, to apprise them of the critical situation; the sharp decrease of Catholic hospitals, (from 35 in 1965 to 19 in 1976), the decline in number of Sisters and the upcoming abortion law, and euthanasia. At the same time, C.H.C.A. was requesting active support from all these organizations to ensure the strengthening of C.H.C.A. through personal and associate membership, and to help prevent the demise of any more hospitals. The Board recognized that the public needed to be alerted, and the Catholic community was requested to support C.H.C.A.'s efforts. The response from all groups contacted was overwhelmingly supportive. There was no doubt that the Catholic population of Alberta and, in many cases, the public at large, were ready to help in any way possible, and that the continuation of Catholic hospitals was very much wanted.

On June 25, 1976, the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception celebrated the 50th Anniversary of their hospital, now named Radway Health Center, and commenced the festivities with the official opening of their new

building. The C.H.C.A. President was present and brought greetings on behalf of C.H.C.A. It seemed that following this celebration, Radway Health Center's ownership was transferred to the government, although this information was not found in C.H.C.A. files.

At the June 11, 1976 C.H.C.A. Board meeting, members reviewed the condition of Pastoral Care in our hospitals and noted an alarming situation. It was agreed that President Sister Soluk would write to Archbishop J. N. MacNeil and describe C.H.C.A.'s concerns. Her letter dated July 7, 1976, explained that there appeared to be no certified Catholic Chaplains in Catholic hospitals in Alberta and that courses for chaplains were offered in two large non-Catholic hospitals in Alberta, while no Catholic hospitals were engaged in this field at that point in time. At the meeting on September 10, the Board began considering the establishment of a scholarship to assist individuals in obtaining Pastoral Care education, thus hoping to raise standards for Pastoral Care ministry in hospitals.

The Thirty-Third Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting held prior to A.H.A. Convention -C.H.A.C. report - Tuition fees for Pastoral Care courses considered - Report from A.C.H.F. - New Board

The Annual Meeting was held on the evening of November 30, 1976, at the Calgary Convention Centre, just prior to the A.H.A. Convention. There were 59 persons present. Monsignor J. J. O'Brien gave the opening Invocation.

The report from C.H.A.C. was given by Sister Florence James, who was the C.H.C.A. representative on the national Association Board. Several points of interest need to be recorded:

- Father Norman Andries has resigned as Executive Director of C.H.A.C. and has been replaced by Father Jean Marc Daoust, O.M.I.
- Therapeia was accepted as a member representing the Maritimes.
- The name of C.H.A.C. was now changed from Catholic Hospital Association of Canada to Catholic Health Association of Canada, retaining the abbreviation C.H.A.C.

The President, Sister Stanislaus Soluk, gave her report and pointed out specifically the work of the Medico-Moral Committee, the concerns of C.H.C.A. in the area of Pastoral Care services in hospitals, the need for chaplains to take

education in Pastoral Care, and the formation of the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation.

Among the resolutions passed at the Annual Meeting, one recommended that the Bylaws be revised in light of the Task Force's report to be presented at the 1977 Annual Meeting. Another resolution proposed the establishment of a policy for C.H.C.A. to provide tuition fees toward Pastoral Care courses.

Mr. John Barry reported on the A.C.H.F.'s first steps into history and answered questions concerning the new status of the Misericordia Hospital. The reader will find this information in the preceding pages.

Mr. George Hennig, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented his report. There were no nominations from the floor. The Executive and Board for 1976-77 were composed as follows:

President:	Mr. John E. MacDonald, Edmonton
Past President:	Sister Stanislaus Soluk, Mundare
Vice President:	Sister Aileen Gilles, Banff
Secretary:	Mr. Norman Hanoski, Camrose
Treasurer:	Mr. Raymond Pinkoski, Edmonton
Directors:	Mr. A. E. Boehm, Edmonton Mr. Simon Dallaire, Bonnyville Sister Mabel Foster, Radway Sister Florence James, Westlock Sister Mary Kevin, Killam Sister Maria Labrecque, Midnapore
Bishops' Representative:	Archbishop Henri Routhier, Edmonton
Chaplains Representative:	Father Don MacDonald, Edmonton

The Year 1976-77

Other provinces look at A.C.H.F. - C.A.P.E. explained - Saskatchewan will not copy A.C.H.F. - New institutional member - Immaculata Hospital's 50th Anniversary - A.C.H.F. discussed - St. Mary's Hospital, Trochu opened new building - A.H.A. Executive Director honored

With the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation in place, our neighboring Saskatchewan Conference was looking toward Alberta for a new approach to ownership of Catholic hospitals. It was at this time that the

Saskatchewan Conference reviewed the Foundation's terms of reference and met with Saskatchewan Health Minister W. A. Robbins to discuss the possibility of a similar approach. It was noted sometime later that the Saskatchewan Minister of Health announced, "they would not set up a vehicle similar to A.C.H.F. because they do not want the Sisters to sell their equity, but rather would prefer the Sisters to remain in the hospital field."

The meeting of November 30 recorded a decision to dissolve the Investigative and Future Involvement Committee which had completed its task with the creation of a functioning A.C.H.F.

At the January 14, 1977, C.H.C.A. Board meeting,(95) Sister Florence James reported on the last C.H.A.C. meeting she attended in Ottawa on December 6, 1976. Of special interest was the information that: "The Canadian Association for Pastoral Education (C.A.P.E.) was explained and it was noted that the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation recommends C.A.P.E. as an accepted body for the certification of Chaplains."

The March 8, 1977 Board meeting noted that the Father Lacombe Nursing Home in Midnapore was admitted as a new institutional member bringing this category of membership up to twenty.

Immaculata Hospital in Westlock celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The Sisters of Charity of Halifax invited C.H.C.A. President, Mr. John MacDonald, to attend the event and bring greetings on behalf of C.H.C.A.

The Human Rights Commission requested a meeting in March, 1977, with Father D. MacDonald, Chaplains' Representative on C.H.C.A. and member of the Medical Moral Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify C.H.C.A.'s position on ethical issues such as abortion and sterilization.

At the April 12, 1977 meeting, the Board expressed concern regarding the present status of the Foundation (A.C.H.F.). It was suggested that a letter be sent to Archbishop MacNeil requesting clarification, ie., C.H.C.A. representation on its Board. The president agreed to contact His Grace and invite him to the next meeting.

The Sisters of Charity of Evron celebrated the opening of their new building at St. Mary's Hospital, Trochu, on June 17, 1977. C.H.C.A. President John MacDonald, was invited and attended the event.

Mr. Murray Ross, A.H.A. Executive Director, was awarded the George Findlay Stephens Award by C.H.A., and a message of congratulations was sent by the C.H.C.A. President.

The Thirty-Fourth Annual Meeting

A seminar "Christ in the Health Care System" - New Bylaws approved - New Board

The 1977 Convention was held September 25 to 27 at the Chateau Lacombe. The Sunday program included only a wine and cheese reception on the evening of September 25. There were 73 people in attendance. On September 26, the educational program consisted of a seminar presented by Father George Freemesser, C.S.B., M.D. entitled "Christ in the Health Care System".

The revised Bylaws were presented and approved by the delegates. The minutes indicated that Archbishop J. N. MacNeil had previously reviewed the draft which had also been presented to a lawyer. Both found the document acceptable. The formal inclusion of the Conference's new name: Catholic Health-Care Conference of Alberta, and provision for personal memberships were the main changes recorded in these 1977 Bylaws.

Sister S. Soluk chaired the Nominating Committee and presented the following composition of the Board and Executive for 1977-78:

President:	Sister Aileen Gilles, Banff
Past President:	Mr. John MacDonald, Edmonton
Vice President:	Mr. Andy E. Boehm, Edmonton
Secretary:	Mr. Norman Hanoski, Camrose
Treasurer:	Mr. Simon Dallaire, Bonnyville
Directors:	Sister Dorise Bilenduke, Willingdon Sister Rose-Anne Gauvin, Edmonton Sister Maria Labreque, Midnapore Mr. Gerry Lang, Edmonton Sister Mary Roberts, Edson Mr. Raymond Tetreau, Vegreville
Bishops' Representative:	Archbishop J. N. MacNeil, Edmonton
Chaplains' Representative:	Fr. Don MacDonald, Edmonton

The Year 1977-78

A.C.H.F. discussed - Honorarium discontinued -St. Joseph's Hospital, Edmonton is 50 - Former President died - Update

given on A.C.H.F. - Chaplains' representative - Sisters' equity overdue - St. Joseph's Hospital, Galahad - Problems in Pastoral Care discussed - Education Committee objectives - A history of C.H.C.A. requested - A.C.H.F. discussed - Education for Pastoral Care sponsored by A.C.H.F. - C.H.C.A.'s files moved - President's resignation - Bishops meet with Government - Membership fees raised - C.H.A.C. fees discussed - Change of C.H.A.C. Executive Director - Vice President's resignation - A.H.A. Executive Director retired - Year of the three Popes

At the first regular meeting of the Board, October 14, 1977, Archbishop J. N. MacNeil reported on the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation. He indicated, "that the Foundation is still in the process of formation and that a number of legalities are still to be finalized. At present there are five members on the Board ... it was felt that when legalities are resolved and meetings occur on a regular basis, provision would be made on the Board for C.H.C.A. representation."

At that meeting, the Board decided to discontinue the annual honorarium paid to the Secretary and the Treasurer. The practice had been in effect for over twenty years and the amount was \$250.00 per year for each person.

The minutes note that St. Joseph's Hospital in Edmonton celebrated its 50th Anniversary on October 24, 1977. A gift of \$100.00 and a congratulatory message on this happy occasion were sent by C.H.C.A. to the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul.

At the meeting of January 13, 1978, it was announced that a former C.H.C.A. President, Mr. C. Gravett had died recently after a long battle with leukemia. A donation of \$50.00 to the C. W. Gravett Memorial Fund and the offering of a Mass were approved by the Board.(96)

At the same meeting, Archbishop MacNeil gave a new update on the status of A.C.H.F. to the Board. He indicated that, "the legalities have been finalized and that a joint public announcement will be made shortly." A.C.H.F. Board were of the opinion that, fearing a conflict of interest between C.H.C.A. and A.C.H.F., a yearly joint meeting of the two Boards was preferred to having C.H.C.A. representation on A.C.H.F. Board. The minutes used a misleading expression, saying: "C.H.C.A. would thus become an extension of the

Foundation and information linkage between Catholic institutions and the Foundation would then exist.” (It seemed that it should probably have been the other way around because C.H.C.A. existed long before the A.C.H.F. was created.)

The Board accepted the nomination of Fr. Robert Part by the Chaplains’ Committee as their representative on C.H.C.A. Board. Chairing this meeting, Past President John E. MacDonald expressed C.H.C.A.’s thanks to Fr. D. MacDonald for his many years of service and his valuable contribution on the Board.

The Board was informed that payments of the Sisters’ equity had been overdue in several hospitals, some for over two years. It was decided that the Secretary, Mr. N. Hanoski, write Mr. Chatfield, Deputy Minister of Health, to request clarification and rectification of this oversight. Mr. G. J. Chatfield, as Deputy Minister of Health, had special responsibility for the new Department of Hospitals and Medical Care which had replaced the Alberta Hospitals Services Commission during the past year. A prompt reply was received, assuring C.H.C.A. that the situation would be rectified immediately as noted in subsequent Board minutes.

The February 10, 1978 Board meeting received information that the Sisters of St. Joseph of London had relinquished ownership of St. Joseph’s Hospital in Galahad and turned it over to the Provincial Government. The Board felt that the President, Sister A. Gilles, should write to the Mother House advising of C.H.C.A.’s disappointment in that they were not notified. It might have been possible for the A.C.H.F. to take over the hospital and to operate it as a Catholic institution. A request was made that, should a similar change be contemplated for the Killam Hospital at a later date, that A.C.H.F.’s role be kept in mind.

Noting that several problems existed in the chaplaincy area of Catholic hospitals, the Board decided to write to the Bishops of Alberta, “voicing their concern and requesting that as much as possible priests appointed as Chaplains should have special aptitude for the chaplaincy role.” The Board also recommended that financial assistance be made available for priests who wished to study in the area of Pastoral Care.

Minutes of the Board now referred to an Education Committee with Sister D. Bilenduke as Chair. The list of educational ideas put forth by that Committee included, workshops, training, and an educational program on

genetic engineering; writing the history of C.H.C.A.; and a workshop on “Death and Dying”.

The Board further suggested to Sister Bilenduke that a letter be sent to the Minister of Culture to enquire about possible funding for the writing of the C.H.C.A. history. At a later meeting, Sister Bilenduke informed the Board that the Minister of Culture, Mr. H. Schmid, advised that grants are available to the amount of 10% of the printing costs and 50% of the paid editorial fees (97). Miss Mary Legris was to be contacted about the “possibility of editing the Conference history.” (No further mention of this project was found in C.H.C.A. files until some ten years later.)

More questions were raised at the Board meeting of March, 1978, concerning the Foundation. As a result, C.H.C.A. Board requested a joint Board meeting with A.C.H.F. in a letter to the Honorable Justice Michael O’Byrne, Chair of A.C.H.F. as noted in C.H.C.A. Board Meeting minutes of March 17, 1978.

At the April 28, 1978 Board meeting, Sister D. Bilenduke reported that instead of offering a workshop as earlier proposed, her Education Committee will work in conjunction with C.H.A.C. in planning their Convention to be held in Edmonton, May 17-19, 1979.

Also at that meeting, Archbishop J. N. MacNeil announced that \$10,000.00 will be allotted annually by the A.C.H.F. to assist in the education of those eligible for Pastoral Care throughout the province. The news was received with enthusiasm and gratitude.

In June, the Board discussed the need to move C.H.C.A. files from the A.H.A. office, “as they are having problems with storage space.” Mr. G. Lang offered space at the Misericordia Hospital. It was agreed to move C.H.C.A. files to the Misericordia Hospital and to consider the need for a part-time secretary, perhaps in conjunction with A.C.H.F.

The President was invited to attend a Sod-Turning Ceremony at the Edmonton General Hospital on June 26. Sister Gilles delegated Mr. A. Boehm to replace her as she was unable to attend. The new Youville Wing presently under construction was to become a centre for Geriatrics Assessment and Rehabilitation accomodating 280 patients.

The Board received a letter of resignation from Sister A. Gilles as a member of the Board and President, the reason being that she was to begin a sabbatical in September. The resignation was accepted with deep regret. At the July 28 Executive meeting, it was decided to present a gift and appropriate expression of thanks to the retiring President before her departure.

Archbishop J. N. MacNeil informed the Board, at the June 23, 1978 meeting, that the Bishops of Alberta would meet soon with the Government of Alberta to discuss matters of mutual interest. His Grace inquired about items to be presented. A list of five major topics were submitted as follows:

- Financial support for Pastoral Care in hospital budgets.
- Inequality of funding between Active Treatment, Nursing Homes, and Auxiliary Hospitals.
- Need to maintain appointment of members to hospital Boards rather than the proposed election.
- Inappropriateness of Bill 19.
- Thank you to Government for their cooperation and assistance in the formation of the A.C.H.F.

In June, 1978, a new fee structure was being revised for institutional membership in order to offset the growing expenditures of C.H.C.A. It was suggested that all hospitals be rated at \$3.00 per bed and that a letter be sent to advise members of that proposal.

At the September 29 Board meeting, the usual \$500.00 charged by C.H.A.C. to defray the cost of active membership in C.H.A. was discussed. It was noted “that C.H.C.A.’s financial position would not allow this payment unless Board members charge travel expenses to their respective hospitals rather than to C.H.C.A.; it was mutually agreed to do this”. A Motion was carried however, “that the \$500.00 yearly donation to C.H.A.C. be eliminated from the 1979 budget.”

It was announced that Father Jean-Marc Daoust, had resigned as C.H.A.C. Executive Director, effective November 30, 1978. His departure was a loss to C.H.A.C. and to the provincial associations as well. At the November 28 pre-Convention meeting, it was announced that Fr. Everett MacNeil was the new Executive Director of C.H.A.C., effective November 1, 1978.

At the September 29 meeting, it was announced that Vice-President Andy Boehm announced his resignation effective November 30, 1978, following the Annual Meeting. Board members thanked Mr. Boehm for his contribution to C.H.C.A. over the past few years.

The resignation of Mr. Murray Ross, the first Executive Director of A.H.A., was also announced, and the C.H.C.A. Board sent him a letter of appreciation in recognition of his many years of devoted service to the Conference hospital members and to C.H.C.A. Board.

The year 1978 will be remembered as the year of the three Popes, a unique succession of sadness and jubilation for the entire Church. On August 6, 1978, Pope Paul VI was called to his Creator and loving Savior after a long illness. Then, the election of John Paul I on August 26, 1978 brought the warmth of a "smiling Pope", but for a very short time. Shocking news were broadcast on September 28, 1978 that the Pope had died very suddenly. A state of shock and disbelief would be a mild description of the emotions experienced by all on that occasion. The Conclave soon proceeded to yet another election, and on October 16, 1978, the white smoke through a window of the Sistine Chapel gave the signal; we had a new Pope in the person of John Paul II.

The Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting

Convention held in Calgary - Talk on "Chaplaincy Services in hospitals" - Bylaws revised - New Board

The Annual meeting was held on November 28, 1978, at the Calgary Convention Centre. There were 64 people in attendance. Mr. Andy Boehm, Acting President, chaired the meeting.

As part of the Annual meeting, a dinner was held. Father Ted Smits, the guest speaker, addressed the audience on "Chaplaincy Services in hospitals". A revised edition of the Bylaws was approved. The revisions included new requirements for the Companies' Branch of the Province of Alberta.

Mr. J. E. MacDonald, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented his report, and the Board of Directors for 1978-79 was voted in by secret ballot. At the Board meeting immediately following, the Officers installed were as follows:

President:	Mr. Gordon Pickering, Edmonton
Past President:	Mr. John E. MacDonald, Edmonton
Vice-President:	Sister Rose-Ellen Donnelly, Killam

Secretary:	Mr. John E. MacDonald, Edmonton
Treasurer:	Mr. Simon Dallaire, Bonnyville
Directors:	Sister Rose-Anne Gauvin, Edmonton Sister Maria Labreque, Midnapore Mr. Gerry Lang, Edmonton Mr. Robert Nitychoruk, Lethbridge Mr. Ray Tetreau, Vegreville
Bishops' Representative:	Archbishop J. N. MacNeil, Edmonton
Chaplains' Representative:	Father Robert Part, Edmonton

The Year 1978-79

Government challenged on funding - Reassurance by Government - Fees to C.H.A.C. - Right-to-Die - Files moved - St. Michael's Hospital is 50 - Mary Immaculate is 60 - St. Louis Hospital is 50

The year began with a clear intent to challenge the Government on funding provided to voluntary hospitals as compared to hospitals operated under the municipalities. In order to substantiate this concern, C.H.C.A. wrote to all institutional members requesting budgetary and funding information in a one-page questionnaire.

On February 12, 1979, Secretary John MacDonald wrote to the Honorable Peter Lougheed, Premier of Alberta, expressing C.H.C.A.'s views on the funding provided to Catholic hospitals. A reply by the Honorable Gordon T. Miniely on March 12 seemed to reassure the Conference. It contained, in part: "Please be assured that it is not now, nor has it ever been the policy of our Government to provide a lower level of financial support to Catholic hospitals than to hospitals operated under municipal auspices." Mr. Miniely also encouraged C.H.C.A. and member hospitals to "approach my Department staff with regard to specific financial questions." In May, further communications from the Department informed C.H.C.A. of the guidelines of appeal for additional funding when the financial allotment received did not meet the actual operating costs.

An earlier decision to discontinue the annual \$500.00 fee sent to C.H.A.C. was rescinded. It was decided that for the time being, the fee was to be paid by C.H.C.A. (98).

Correspondence received by the Board from Mr. John Gogo, MLA, Lethbridge West, requested C.H.C.A.'s input on "Right-to-Die" with a view to assisting in the preparation of legislation in that matter. President Gordon Pickering informed Mr. Gogo that a study had been initiated at his hospital on the "Care of the Terminally Ill," and he would be pleased to share results when these were available.(99) This kind of request seemed to bear some link with the new trend in the United States toward a "Living Will" and the later development of "assisted suicide". (It is worth noting that, to this day, the Government of Alberta has never pursued this approach.)

The Board meeting of June 22 made a decision to move C.H.C.A. files to the Grey Nuns' Regional Centre where the secretary was located.

At the Board meeting of June 22, 1979, it was recorded that a unanimous motion of congratulations was sent to St. Michael's Hospital and the Sisters of St. Martha on their 50 years of faithful service to the people of Lethbridge. A celebration on June 1, 1979 was attended by the President, Gordon Pickering.

Another message of congratulations was sent to Mary Immaculate Hospital at Mundare and the Sisters Servant of Mary Immaculate who celebrated 60 years of service on October 22, 1979. This event was attended by the Secretary, John MacDonald.

At the November 27, 1979 meeting, the Board received an invitation to attend the 50th Anniversary celebration of St. Louis Hospital in Bonnyville. Mr. MacDonald attended and presented the Sisters of Charity of Evron with a newly designed meritorious certificate.

The Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting

Convention held in Calgary - Archbishop MacNeil unable to attend - High finances - Concern expressed on the future - Bylaws approved - Vote of thanks to A.H.A. - New Board

November 27, 1979 was the date of the Convention at the Calgary Convention Centre. A letter from Archbishop J. N. MacNeil, Bishops' Representative, indicated his regret that a confirmation ceremony prevented him from attending the Convention. He delegated Father Part, Chaplains' Representative, to bring greetings on his behalf. In doing so, Father Part, "expressed the deep concern that the Bishop has for the work and purpose of the Conference."

The Treasurer's Report, given by Simon Dallaire, revealed that the present bank balance has reached an all-time high of over \$14,000.00.

In his President's Report, Gordon Pickering related some of the activities of the past year and went on to express his concern as to the future direction of our hospitals and this Conference. "It seems that the A.H.A. represents us in fiscal matters — this should continue ... we need to develop new roles ... ministering to spiritual needs of the sick, places the Conference in a position of real leadership." He also suggested that, "a closer relationship with the Catholic Hospitals Foundation of Alberta could be beneficial to both organizations and that a shared common Executive Director could be a step in that direction." (It will be many years before this long-standing dream is realized.)

The Secretary, John MacDonald, as Chair of the Bylaws Committee, explained that further work needed to be done on the Bylaws to reflect the requirements of the Alberta Consumer and Corporate Affairs Companies Branch. The revamped document was once more approved by the delegates for acceptance by the above government agency.

The assembly moved a vote of thanks to A.H.A. which had provided facilities for their annual meeting as had been done for the past three years.

Chairing the Nominating Committee, Gerry Lang gave his report on the composition of the 1979-80 Executive and Board of Directors, as follows:

President:	Father Robert Part, Edmonton
Past President:	Mr. Gordon Pickering, Edmonton
Vice President:	Mr. Robert Nitychoruk, Lethbridge
Secretary:	Dr. Leo Klug, Edmonton
Treasurer:	Sister Cabrini Bartolo, Calgary
Directors:	Sister Rose-Ellen Donnelly, Killam Sister Claire Fitzgerald, Westlock Sister Rose-Anne Gauvin, Edmonton Mr. Gerry Lang, Edmonton Mr. Ray Tetreau, Vegreville
Bishops' Representative:	Archbishop J. N. MacNeil, Edmonton
Chaplains' Representative:	Father Robert Part, Edmonton

The Year 1979-80

Lethbridge situation - A lease on life for St. Michael's - Meeting with the Bishops and A.C.H.F. - Part-time secretary hired - Sisters in Radway honored - Misericordia is 75 - Banff Mineral Springs Hospital is 50 - Possibility of new hospital in Calgary

There were few meetings reported in the year 1979-80, but the correspondence is voluminous (100). The "Lethbridge situation" appeared to be the main concern expressed in letters and meetings between Honorable D. J. Russell, Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care, Judge Frank T. Byrne, Board Chair at St. Michael's General Hospital, Sister M. Clarissa, Administrator of St. Michael's, Mr. R. D. Gruenwald, Chair of St. Michael's Planning Committee, Father Robert Part, C.H.C.A. President, and the diocese of Calgary.

The problem was that both St. Michael's General and Lethbridge Municipal Hospitals were at the same time in need of government capital funding for renovation and expansion. This triggered a serious controversy as to whether there was a need for two 200-bed hospitals in the City of Lethbridge. Three options were proposed by the Government: 1) to build one new hospital; 2) to renovate and upgrade both hospitals, sharing programs and financing; or 3) to select one hospital as a future new regional hospital while giving no assistance to the other.

Finally, in his letter of January 7, 1980, Mr. D. J. Russell informed Judge F. T. Byrne that a decision was reached to allow both hospitals to remain functional. Correspondence indicated that this allowed St. Michael's "a lease on life", but it was evident that this was intended as a temporary measure only. In the meantime, the Conference, the Foundation, and St. Michael's friends in Lethbridge had been active in studying all possible alternatives. These efforts would prove beneficial when this type of crisis occurred again several years later.

A meeting with the Alberta Bishops and the Foundation on November 28, 1980 at the Grey Nuns' Regional Centre was attended by three Board representatives: Sister A. Gilles, Dr. Leo Klug, and Fr. R. Part. A brief note in the minutes of a subsequent C.H.C.A. Board meeting reported that "the meeting was informal, but informative".

At the September 21, 1980 meeting, the Board agreed to hire a part-time secretary and approved a job description and a salary of \$100.00 per month. This

was ratified at the Annual Meeting. Sister Anne Rajotte was hired for this position and remained in that job until June, 1981.

In the President's Newsletter of November, 1980, Fr. Part announced several events worth noting in this history:

- The Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception were honored in Radway for their many years of apostolate in St. Joseph's Hospital. A scroll of recognition was presented by Mr. John MacDonald on behalf of C.H.C.A.
- The Misericordia Hospital celebrated its 75th Anniversary on September 26, and C.H.C.A. President, Father R. Part, presented a recognition award.
- Banff Mineral Springs Hospital celebrated its 50th Anniversary on May 30. The Sisters of St. Martha were honored on that occasion, and C.H.C.A. Vice President, Sr. A. Gilles, presented a meritorious service award on behalf of the Conference.

In a letter dated August 27, 1980 to C.H.C.A. President, Father R. Part, Archbishop J. N. MacNeil suggested the possibility that one of the new hospitals being planned for Calgary could be operated under Catholic auspices. At that time, there was a proposal by the Government to build four prototype hospitals: two in Edmonton and two in Calgary. Sometime later, the number was reduced to one in each city. Those buildings were to be completed in 1988 and will be mentioned again at that time.

The Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting

Convention held in Calgary - Greetings from C.H.A.C. - Board vacancy filled - Vote of Thanks to A.H.A. - New Board

The 1980 Annual Meeting was held at the Calgary Convention Center in the afternoon of November 25, 1980. There were 46 people present. Bishop Paul O'Byrne, representing the Bishops of Alberta, brought greetings to the assembly.

Father Everett MacNeil, Executive Director, brought greetings from C.H.A.C. and gave a brief overview of the activities of the national association. C.H.C.A. President, Father R. Part, reviewed the past year's business of the Conference. He welcomed Sister Aileen Gilles recently named by the Board to

replace a vacant position which occurred as a result of Vice President, Robert Nitychoruk's move to British Columbia. Father Part thanked all members of the Board for their service to C.H.C.A.

A vote of thanks was extended to A.H.A. for providing C.H.C.A. with the facilities at the Convention Center for their Annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Sister Aileen Gilles, gave its report. The Board met following the Convention and elected the Officers. The Executive and Board for 1980-81 were announced as follows:

President:	Father Robert Part, Edmonton
Past President:	Mr. Gordon Pickering, Edmonton*
Vice President:	Sister Aileen Gilles, Lethbridge
Secretary:	Dr. Leo Klug, Edmonton
Treasurer:	Sister Rose Ellen Donnelly, Killam
Directors:	Sister Cabrini Bartolo, Calgary
	Sister C. Fitzgerald, Westlock
	Sister R. A. Gauvin, Edmonton
	Mr. G. Lang, Edmonton
	Mr. Peter Verhesen, Trochu**
	Sister Ruth Wirachowsky
Bishops' Representative:	Most Rev. J. N. MacNeil, Edmonton
Chaplains' Representative:	Father Robert Part, Edmonton

* Resigned on December 10, 1980

** Named by the Board in January, 1981, replacing G. Pickering

The Year 1980-81

Representative on A.H.A. Board named - Further information on the Foundation needed - Yearly register of members - Killam General Hospital is 50 - Liaison with A.P.C.A. - Changes on Board membership - Lethbridge situation - Capital Projects - Role of the Foundation discussed - Planning Council suggested - C.H.C.A. in need of an Executive Director - New part-time secretary

In addition to the election of officers, the Board, at its November 25th meeting, also voted Gerry Lang as C.H.C.A. representative to A.H.A. Board.

At their February meeting, Board members requested a written report of the meeting held with the Bishops, the Foundation and C.H.C.A. Board

representatives. In addition, a motion was made requesting, “that C.H.C.A., through Father Part, continue to press for C.H.C.A. representation at the meetings of the Foundation”.(101)

The revised Bylaws approved at the 1979 Annual Meeting, identified a new procedure: that of a yearly register of members. This began on April 1, 1981.

Killam General Hospital and the Sisters of St. Joseph of London celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 1981, and Father R. Part presented a plaque on that occasion.

Liaison with the Alberta Pastoral Care Association (A.P.C.A.) was mentioned at several Board meetings. At the March 20, 1981 meeting, the Board decided to write A.P.C.A. in that regard. Although efforts were made by both organizations, a formal liaison did not occur.

In 1980-81, there were several resignations from the Board due to health reasons, transfers, or overwork. Mr. Gordon Pickering, Past President, resigned in December, 1980 and was replaced as Board member by Mr. Peter Verhesen of Trochu. At the first meeting he attended, on February 13, 1981, Mr. Verhesen was asked to take on the publication of the Newsletter and he graciously accepted the challenge.

Sister Cabrini Bartolo, who transferred out of province, was replaced by Mr. Lech Lacny from Lethbridge. She had been the C.H.C.A. representative on the A.P.C.A. This representation was transferred to Father Part. Sister Aileen Gilles was also transferred out of province. The resignations were received with regret.

Concerning the Lethbridge situation, the Board meeting of March 20, 1981, recorded a motion, “that C.H.C.A. write to the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care, the Honorable Dave Russell, on behalf of St. Michael’s Hospital.” This letter, signed by C.H.C.A. President, Father Part, and dated May 25, 1981 (102) contained a strong plea and even volunteered to “support reasonable negotiation.”

The Minister replied on May 26 and described at great length all the capital projects approved in Catholic hospitals over the last two years “practically in every voluntary hospital across the province”. He then went on to

explain that a new 330 bed regional referral hospital would be constructed while renovation and upgrading were approved for St. Michael's, "which will result in approximately 150 modern, up-to-date, active treatment hospital beds". These letters were followed by several others between Father Part and Mr. Russell. Several articles in the Lethbridge Herald, and petitions to the Minister with 18,000 names by the "people of Lethbridge stating their disapproval of the present solution" were also sent to the Minister. The year 1981 closed without a permanent acceptable solution to the "Lethbridge Situation".

On August 17, 1981, C.H.C.A. Board held a special meeting to discuss the St. Michael's Hospital situation further, and the role of the Foundation. As a basis for discussion, Mr. Gerry Lang reported on his meetings with Bishop Paul O'Byrne and subsequently with Mr. John Barry and Mr. Pat French. Concerns expressed were that traditionally, the role of C.H.C.A. had not been looked upon as being a high profile political influence, and that the Foundation had not been set up as a political entity. It was suggested that a "Planning Council" be created to act as a lobbying group. Mr. Pat French and Mr. Ray Pinkoski were invited to join the Board. The meeting resulted in the following proposition: "That a Planning Council be formed to act quickly, to represent the Foundation, C.H.C.A. and its members, and that it be reviewed annually." There was to be further development in this new venture, and the future will reveal encouraging steps being taken.

On September 11, 1981, the Board held a Day of Reflection at which Mr. Pat French, Chair of the Foundation, gave a report of the interaction between St. Michael's and the Government deciding its fate. He also announced that Mr. John Barry had volunteered his services for six months to deal with the issues surrounding St. Michael's Hospital.

There was a suggestion that C.H.C.A. should hire an executive director with "good public relations ability, committed to Catholicism and who would be a self-starter with some experience and credibility." At that time, because of financial implications, action on this motion was deferred to a later date.

A part-time secretary was found to replace Sister Anne Rajotte. Mrs. Florence Gour's name appeared in the minutes of October 16, 1981. She was to be a welcome addition to the Conference for many years to come.

The Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting

Convention held in Calgary - Talks on Philosophy - Resolutions: requesting the Government's position re: voluntary hospitals, to explain decisions on St. Michael's, and to reconsider its proposal to elect trustees - Request for funds from A.C.H.F. - New Board

This year, again the A.H.A. graciously provided facilities for the Conference's Annual Meeting and Convention at the Calgary Convention Center. The meeting was held on December 1, 1981, with free registration for approximately 70 participants.

The morning session featured Father M. Stogre, S.J., M.D. from Ontario. His talk entitled "Toward a Philosophy of Catholic Hospitals" prepared the participants for the afternoon session an "Implementation Workshop of Philosophy" led by Dr. Karl Riese from St. Boniface General Hospital.

At the end of the day, the Conference held its annual meeting reviewing for the membership the events of the past year. There were some strong resolutions voted on requesting the Government to: 1) re-state its position concerning voluntary hospitals, 2) explain its intentions and reasons for attempting to downgrade St. Michael's Hospital, and 3) to reconsider its proposal to have elected trustees on hospital boards.

One other resolution was that C.H.C.A. approach the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation to provide funding to C.H.C.A. for public relations purposes, newsletters, promotions, etc.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Sister Ruth Wirachowsky, presented the slate of nominees. The Executive and Board for 1981-82 were as follows:

President:	Mr. Gerry Lang, Edmonton
Past President:	Father Robert Part, Edmonton
Vice President:	Dr. Leo Klug, Edmonton
Secretary:	Sister C. Fitzgerald, Westlock
Treasurer:	Mr. Lech Lacny, Lethbridge
Directors:	Sister Rose-Anne Gauvin, Edmonton Ms. Marie MacDonald, Edmonton Sister Roselina McMahon, Banff Mr. Peter Verhesen, Trochu Sister Ruth Wirachowsky, Vegreville
Bishops' Representative:	Archbishop J. N. MacNeil, Edmonton

The Year 1981-82

Representatives to A.H.A. and A.P.C.A. named - Fund available for pastoral education - Membership meeting - Decision to open an office and form a Planning Council - Education activities - Archbishop MacNeil honored - Compliments on C.H.C.A. Newsletter

The post-Convention meeting of December 1, 1981, dealt with the usual business of electing the Executive, naming the A.H.A. representative, Mr. G. Lang, and the A.P.C.A. Chaplains' Representative, Father R. Part.

An interesting letter from Mr. T. N. Gallant, Barrister, was received by C.H.C.A. President.(103) The letter referred to a fund to "be utilized for pastoral education and development in health care institutions in Alberta for a period of at least five years ..." This fund was under the direction of the Archbishop of Edmonton who wished "... to remind the Conference of this financial assistance available." (At the time of writing, this offer is still available from the Archbishop's office for those wishing to obtain financial assistance for studies in Pastoral Care.)

On March 19, 1982, the Board members met to make plans for a special membership meeting to be held on June 11, 1982. This meeting was to include institutional owners, their Board representatives, C.H.C.A. Board, A.C.H.F. Board, and two of the Alberta Bishops. The objectives of the June 11, 1982 meeting were to discuss: 1) the future of Catholic hospitals; 2) the potential difficulties of some congregations to maintain ownership; and 3) the respective roles of C.H.C.A. and A.C.H.F.

This historic meeting, attended by 61 persons, clarified the role of A.C.H.F. which "was intended as a vehicle to facilitate a transition should a member institution find it necessary to withdraw". There was also a unanimous agreement to open a central office and to form a Planning Council. An ad hoc Steering Committee chaired by Mr. Gerry Lang was created to develop Terms of Reference for the Planning Council, and plan a funding mechanism.(104)

The Planning Council was chaired by Dr. Rupert Clare, and its members were Mr. John Barry, Mr. Pat French, Mr. Gerry Lang, Dr. Harold MacNeil and a sixth member from Calgary to be added later. Dr. H. MacNeil was appointed Executive Director of the Planning Council and he was to become a very influential advocate in the health care field.

The Board heard from the Education Chairman, Dr. Leo Klug, that twelve workshops were planned and offered throughout the province. These workshops were made available and were highly publicized among institutional members, and covered topics such as: The Christian and Death, Dying, Grieving (Dr. L. Klug); The Christian and Suffering (Sister J. Martin); The Spiritual Care of the Sick (Father G. Wiesner); Why Catholic Health Care Facilities? (Mr. J.P. French), and several other timely topics.

At the June 4, 1982 meeting, the Board voted that a letter of congratulations be sent to Archbishop J. N. MacNeil on being granted an honorary degree from the University of Alberta. The Conference proudly applauded this recognition given to one of its strong supporters. Archbishop MacNeil had been the Bishops' Representative on the Conference since 1977.

The Board was pleased to hear of a letter from Father Everett MacNeil to Peter Verhesen, editor of C.H.C.A. Newsletter, indicating that his publication was "excellent". Alberta readers often echoed these affirming statements.

The Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting

Convention held in Calgary - Renowned ethicist as guest speaker - Planning Council described - Sisters of Charity of Evron are 300 - New Board

Calgary Convention Center was the site for the November 30, 1982 C.H.C.A. Annual Meeting and Convention. There were 110 people registered, a tribute to the guest speaker, Dr. David Roy, ethicist from Montreal. Dr. Roy spoke on "Who lives? Who dies? Who cares?"

In the Presidential message, Mr. Gerry Lang described the newly formed Planning Council which was co-sponsored by C.H.C.A. and A.C.H.F. This Council hoped that our Catholic health care institutions would be assisted through better political action in maintaining their ownership.

The President acknowledged the 300th Anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Charity of Evron, and he gratefully acknowledged their generous donations to C.H.C.A. as part of their celebrations.

The Chair of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Lech Lacny, presented the slate for election and re-election of the 1982-83 Board of Directors. Subsequent

to the Convention, the new Board elected its Executive Committee. The new list is as follows:

President:	Mr. Gerry Lang, Edmonton
Past President:	Father Robert Part, Castor
Vice President:	Dr. Leo Klug, Edmonton
Secretary:	Sister Roseline McMahon, Banff
Treasurer:	Sister Rose Anne Gauvin, Edmonton
Directors:	Ms. Marie MacDonald, Edmonton Dr. Harold MacNeil, Edmonton Mr. Peter Verhesen, Trochu Sister Ruth Wirachowsky, Vegreville
Bishops' Representative:	Archbishop J. N. MacNeil, Edmonton
Chaplains' Representative:	Father Robert Part, Castor.

The Year 1982-83

C.H.C.A. representation on Boards - Medico-Moral guidelines approved - Progress of Planning Council -First office opened - Appreciation to the Minister - Concern re: pornography expressed - Unavailability of funds for chapels, pastoral care, palliative care - Donation received - Board membership - Mid-Year Education Day begun - 'Users Fees' - 'No-strike' legislation - Honor Roll considered

The post-Convention Board meeting was held on the evening of November 30, 1982, in Calgary. After the usual election of the Executive Committee as listed earlier, C.H.C.A. made the following appointments to represent the Conference on various boards:

Mr. Gerry Lang	C.H.A.C. Board Planning Council Board
Dr. Harold MacNeil	A.H.A. Board
Fr. Robert Part	C.H.A.C. Member-at-Large Chaplains' Representative

At the meeting of January 21, 1983,(105) the Board reviewed and approved the C.H.C.A. Medico-Moral Guidelines which had been in preparation for a number of months. The Guidelines were to be made available to institutional members as a help in setting up their ethics committees.

The Board was informed by Dr. H. MacNeil of the progress made by the Catholic Hospital Planning Council (C.H.P.C.). The Council was to meet monthly and had set the following objectives:

- Notify all Catholic hospitals of the purpose and function of C.H.P.C.
- Inform the Catholic hospitals that the Council is prepared to offer assistance to religious congregations.
- Establish an office.
- Meet with the Bishops to discuss the concerns of the Planning Council.

Dr. H. MacNeil announced that office space had been rented at #203, 14218 Stony Plain Road, and that space for the Board meetings is available within the rented area.

Another very important medical/ethical issue facing hospital organizations at this time was the question of abortion. Catholic principles could not support this practice and a letter to the Honorable D. Russell, Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care, was sent commending him for his opposition to the establishment of abortion clinics in Alberta by Dr. H. Morgentaler.

Similarly, the Board also wrote to the Attorney General of Alberta and to the Bishops of Alberta expressing their concern regarding pornographic material being displayed and sold in public places in Alberta. C.H.C.A. joined in supporting a number of other organizations and individuals who shared the same concern.

A lengthy discussion was held by the Board on recent correspondence (106) from St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose, concerning the unavailability of government funds in their new hospital for pastoral care, palliative care, and the chapel at their new facility. Sister Sheila Brady, Administrator, and Sister Muriel Gallagher, her Superior General, both expressed their surprise and disapproval of such policies. A search of earlier correspondence, however, indicated that the Government had previously provided for "reasonable" capital expenditure toward the building of a chapel for Catholic hospitals. It was agreed that a resolution be presented at the Convention about this concern.

A generous donation from the Sisters of St. Joseph of London was gratefully received. In making the donation, Sister Kateri Ghesquiere wrote:

“Having experienced the pain of withdrawing from a hospital (Galahad), we are anxious that as many Catholic facilities as possible remain in existence as witnesses to Christ’s healing love.”

The Board regretfully accepted two letters of resignation from the Board at its June 17, 1983 meeting. Sr. Roselina McMahon, Secretary, resigned for health reasons and was replaced by Ms. Marie MacDonald. Sister Ruth Wirachowsky also resigned as a Director on the Board. The Board decided to delay replacement until the elections at the Annual meeting

Another innovation of the dynamic Education Committee was the annual Mid-Year Education Day begun in April, 1983. These were usually held in Edmonton as most of the membership was located in the northern part of the province. Later, Calgary also hosted Mid-Year Education Days with great success.

Two political items were brought forward on the agenda at this meeting. These were “Users Fees”, and “No Strike Legislation”. The “Users Fees” practice was suggested by the Government in order to offset the “excessive use of health care services”. The Conference opposed this political move because users fees tended to infringe upon the universality principle in the Canadian health care system.

The “No Strike Legislation” (Bill 44) singled out the nurses as a group providing an essential service. The Bill concerned the Conference from a social justice point of view. Both issues were followed up with correspondence and lengthy discussion.

At the September 30th meeting, the Board considered the establishment of an Honor Roll, and offering recognition to persons for outstanding service. It was concluded that this innovation would be presented to the membership at the November Annual Meeting.

The Fortieth Annual Meeting

Convention held in Edmonton - Vice President Chairing - Talk on ‘Christian Life, Leisure, Loving’ -Report on Planning Council - Alberta Bishops’ pastoral letter - Bylaws amendments - Note of thanks to A.H.A. - New Board

The 40th Annual Meeting was held at the Westin Hotel in Edmonton on November 29, 1983. Over 125 members and guests were in attendance. In the

absence of President Gerry Lang, the day was presided over by Vice President Dr. Leo Klug. Archbishop J. N. MacNeil was present and gave an inspirational message to the assembly.

The educational part of the Convention was an address given by Sister Sylvia McDonald, a Sister of the Congregation of Notre Dame. She spoke on "Christian Life, Leisure, Loving".

Dr. Harold MacNeil, Board Member and Executive Director of the Planning Council, reported to the membership on the first few months of operation of the Council. Of special significance was his report on a meeting with the Bishops of the Province which resulted in a pastoral letter entitled, "Catholic Health Care Facilities in Alberta — Yesterday - Today - Tomorrow." This very inspiring pastoral letter was published in the Western Catholic Reporter and was also printed in pamphlet form for wide distribution. The Knights of Columbus contributed generously toward the printing cost of the pamphlets. (Appendix VI)

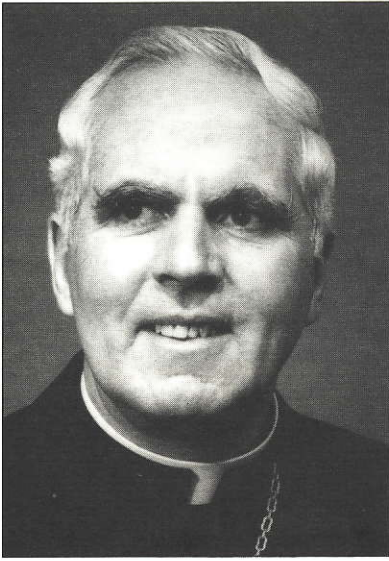
The assembly ratified several amendments to the Bylaws that were recommended by the Board. A complete revision of the Bylaws was soon to be on the agenda.

The only resolution brought forward was a vote of thanks given to the A.H.A. Board of Directors for graciously providing the facilities for the C.H.C.A. Annual Meeting at their own cost.

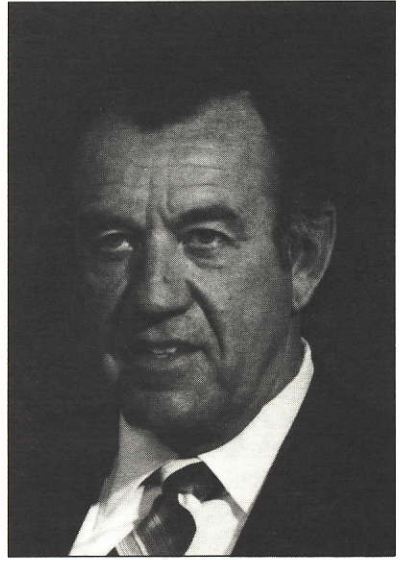
Mr. Peter Verhesen, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented a list of nominations which were elected by acclamation as there were no other names proposed from the floor. The new Board, having elected its officers, the 1983-84 Board and Executive Committee were as follows:

President:	Dr. Leo Klug, Edmonton
Past President:	Mr. Gerry Lang, Edmonton
Vice President:	Mr. Peter Verhesen, Trochu
Secretary:	Ms. Marie MacDonald, Edmonton
Treasurer:	Mr. Lech Lacny, Lethbridge
Directors:	Sr. Therese Castonguay, Edmonton Dr. Harold MacNeil, Edmonton Mr. Robert Robert, Vegreville Mr. Stan Sawicki, Lethbridge
Bishops' Representative:	Archbishop J. N. MacNeil, Edmonton
Chaplains' Representative:	Fr. Robert Part, Castor

**ALBERTA CATHOLIC HOSPITALS FOUNDATION (ACHF)
MAJOR ACTORS**



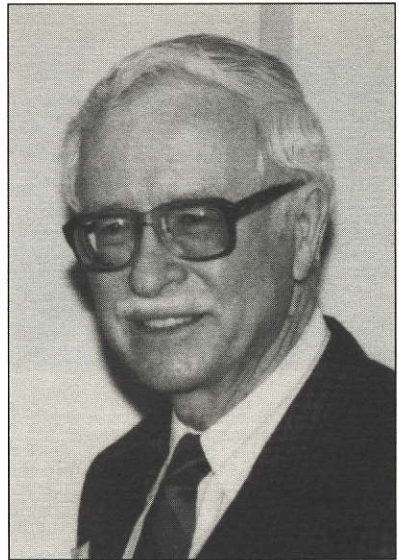
Archbishop J.N. MacNeil



Mr. John Barry



Mr. Pat French



Dr. Harold MacNeil

OTHER KEY PLAYERS TODAY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1991-92



L. to R. front row: Sr. Mary Ellen O'Neill, Bonnyville; Mr. F.H. (Bud) Pals - President, Castor; Dr. J.A. O'Brien, Edmonton; Mrs. Josephine Krokosh, Lethbridge; L. to R. back row: Peter Fuhrmann, Banff; Sr. Janice Soluk - Secretary, Mundare; Gerry Hiebert - Vice-President/Acting Treasurer, Edmonton; Bro. Leon Jansen - Past President, Calgary. (Bishop Paul O'Byrne and Major David Luginbuhl, Calgary, not shown).

C.H.A.A. STAFF 1991-92



L. to R.:
Kathy O'Neill - Executive Director,
Floreny Gour - Executive Assistant,
Pat O'Halloran - Executive Secretary.

50th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE



L. to R.: John Boucher, Sr. Therese Castonguay, Lillian Collins, Jan Moore, Kathy O'Neill and Florence Gour.



AUTHOR
"A MISSION
OF CARING"

Sister Therese
Castonguay

CHAPTER VI
THE FIFTH DECADE: 1983-84 to 1992-93
BUILDING ON STRENGTHS

The Year 1983-84

Census of members - Government's assurance - Education activities - Membership enhanced - Annual meeting format revised - St. Michael's Hospital - Possible new hospital in Calgary - Certificates on special anniversaries - C.H.A.C. Seminar for administrators - C.H.C.A. office moved - Recognition award initiated - St. Michael's Nursing Home - Fee increase - The Pope in Canada

The fifth decade of C.H.C.A. began with 17 institutional members, 18 associate members, and 57 personal members. Dr. Harold MacNeil, reporting on the Planning Council (C.H.P.C.) at the January 20, 1984, Board Meeting(107), indicated "that the C.H.P.C. had written assurance from the Minister that voluntary hospitals will remain part of the (health care) delivery system." With this confirmation from Government, the Conference was energized and prepared to set bold objectives for the year and for its fifth decade of existence.

Education was already a very active part of C.H.C.A.'s role in health care. Dr. Leo Klug, now C.H.C.A. President, relinquished the Education Chair, which he held for two years, and Ms. Marie MacDonald inherited the challenge. The Mid-Year Education Days continued and the three-hour workshops remained available. In spite of increased publicity, the workshops were not in high demand, and their continuation became a question to be settled at Board meetings.

It was recognized that membership, especially associate and personal, required a significant increase if C.H.C.A. was to reach the strength and visibility needed to fulfil its role. A Membership Committee, chaired by Sr. T. Castonguay, was asked to submit a report at the March, 1984 Board meeting. This report included a plan for a membership drive to be held in April of that year, using a contact person in each member institution. This endeavour resulted in an increase in associate members from 18 to 28, and in personal members from 57 to 132.

A Communications Committee chaired by Mr. Peter Verhesen was charged with the mandate "to enhance communication with the C.H.C.A. membership." This was achieved mainly through an increased circulation of the newsletter to include libraries, churches, colleges, and universities. Mr. Peter

Verhesen continued as editor of the newsletter and received several compliments from its readers.

The Annual Meeting required evaluation. A committee, chaired by Mr. Lech Lacny, presented a position paper which raised several important points. Among the recommendations was that a two-day convention be held so that one full day could be devoted to the educational component, while the other day would allow for the development and expansion of C.H.C.A.'s philosophy, mission, and aims, and the formulation of the Conference's position and policies. Although this suggestion was a worthwhile plan, it has not been implemented to this day because the A.H.A. Convention followed immediately. C.H.C.A. hoped to continue using the convention facilities provided by A.H.A.

The Education, Membership and Communication Committees, as well as the Annual Meeting with a new vision and renewed energy moved in a new direction toward a new decade.

At the March 16, 1984 meeting, the Board received a report which stated that an agreement had been reached for ownership of St. Michael's Hospital to be transferred to the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation. The Sisters of St. Martha planned to sell their equity to the Province. The Hospital Foundation would then lease back the facilities and operate the hospital. This position followed a pattern similar to that established by the Misericordia Hospital in the '70's.

A provisional Hospital Board was established in Calgary with a mandate to study the possibility of a new hospital planned by the Government for that City. The Board was chaired by Mr. Justice Ken Moore. C.H.C.A.'s contact person was Mr. Hal Spelliscy. The hope of acquiring that new hospital did not materialize.

At the March meeting of the Board, it was suggested that religious congregations be issued a certificate of recognition for outstanding services on special anniversary dates such as the 25th, 50th, 75th, 80th, and every ten years thereafter. Two institutions received this certificate in 1984: St. Mary's Hospital, Trochu (75th), and St. Mary's Hospital, Camrose (60th). It will be recalled that in 1979, meritorious certificates were presented to institutions celebrating special anniversaries. This was repeated on several similar occasions.

It was announced at the June 23 meeting that C.H.A.C. was to offer a special seminar on November 16 and 17, 1984. This seminar was designed for

lay administrators, associates, and assistant administrators who needed help and support in upholding the moral value of Catholic health care. The Conference representative on the C.H.A.C. Board, Mr. Gerry Lang, volunteered to write a letter to all institutions to promote attendance at the seminar.

The first C.H.C.A. office, on Stony Plain Road, proved to be too small after only a year of use. Re-location to a larger facility was necessary, so the Foundation and the Conference offices could be centrally accommodated and thus function more adequately. The move occurred on September 1 and the C.H.C.A. September 14, 1984 meeting was held in this more spacious facility at #176, 14315 - 118 Avenue, Edmonton.

Criteria for the annual Recognition Award was drafted by Dr. H. MacNeil and Sr. T. Castonguay, and the draft was approved by the Board at the September 14 meeting. The first of these awards were presented, at the 1984 Convention, to four recipients as will be seen later.

On May 5, 1984, C.H.C.A. welcomed its newest member institution, St. Michael's Nursing Home located in Edmonton. The Conference was represented at the Opening Ceremony by the President, Dr. Leo Klug.

In May, 1984, the Board, through Lech Lacny, Treasurer, sent a letter to all member institutions announcing a fee increase for the year 1984-85. The new fee schedule included in the letter showed an increase of about 30% for large institutions. It was noted that since 1979, only one 5% increase had been requested by C.H.C.A., and it was becoming urgent that the Conference receive a new injection of revenues in order to respond to the increasing needs of the membership.

The year 1984 marked the first visit of a Pope to Canada. Alberta was particularly privileged in that His Holiness John Paul II chose to spend sixty hours in Edmonton, between his visit to Winnipeg and his first attempt to visit Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories. The Pope arrived at the Grey Nuns Regional Center on September 14, on the first night of his visit and left in the morning of September 17. On that occasion, Mr. Lucien Frechette, Chair of C.H.A.C. Board, wrote on behalf of the Catholic Health Association of Canada to welcome the Pope and to acknowledge his guidance and teachings in matters of interest to health care organizations. Mr. Frechette specifically mentioned John Paul II's Apostolic Letter "On Suffering" and his recent talks on "Ethics and Genetics" given in October, 1983, to delegates from the World Medical Assembly.(108)

The Forty-First Annual Meeting

Site of meeting and attendance First Recognition Award presented - Dr. J. Cox spoke on Ethics - President's Report: St. Michael's Hospital and St. Michael's Nursing Home - Audiovisual completed - New Board

The Westin Hotel, in Edmonton, was the site of C.H.C.A.'s Annual Meeting on November 27, 1984. As in past years, A.H.A. graciously covered the cost for the use of the facilities.

There were approximately 200 persons present. Greetings from the Alberta Bishops were brought by Most Reverend D. M. Greschuk, Apostolic Administrator of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton.

C.H.C.A. Board initiated the Recognition Award at this Convention. A request for nominations by the membership revealed great interest and several nominations were received. This being the first award presentation, the Conference decided to choose four recipients: Dr. Rupert Clare, Miss Mary Legris, and a joint award to Mr. John Barry and Mr. Pat French. All were praised for their pioneering work on behalf of Catholic hospitals in Alberta.

A well-known Ethicist, Dr. Johnny Cox from Spokane, Washington, was the main speaker. His topics were "Key Christian Ethical Values" and "A Model for Ethical Decisions". The afternoon panel afforded good opportunities for practical applications. Sister Genevieve McArthur acted as Moderator and the two presenters were Rev. Ken Hayden, Foothills Hospital and Dr. John Lipinski, Edmonton General Hospital.

In his address, President Dr. Leo Klug reported on the achievements of the year 1983-84. He elaborated specifically upon the change of ownership of St. Michael's Hospital in Lethbridge which A.C.H.F. is now operating; the opening of St. Michael's Nursing Home in Edmonton, which brought the institutional membership to 18 in 1984; and the fact that "the Grey Nuns operating the Edmonton General Hospital, have been offered, by Government, the new hospital in Millwoods to be operated as a Catholic facility."

Ms. Marie MacDonald, Chair, Education Committee, in her report, announced the completion of the slide/tape presentation on Christian Health Care. The presentation gives an historical illustration of health care as a ministry of Jesus and continued to our days. The slide/tape was to be converted into a video tape at a later date.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Mr. Gerry Lang, presented five nominees for the two positions to be filled on the Board. As usual, at the Post-Convention Meeting, the Board elected its officers. The 1984-85 Board of Directors was listed as follows:

President:	Dr. Leo Klug, Edmonton
Past President:	Mr. Gerry Lang, Edmonton
Vice President:	Sr. Therese Castonguay, Edmonton
Secretary:	Ms. Marie MacDonald, Edmonton
Treasurer:	Mr. Lech Lacny, Lethbridge
Directors:	Sr. Sheila Brady, Camrose Dr. Harold MacNeil, Edmonton Mr. Robert Robert, Vegreville Mr. Stan Sawicki, Lethbridge Mr. Peter Verhesen, Trochu
Bishops' Representative:	Archbishop J. N. MacNeil, Edmonton
Chaplains' Representative:	Fr. Walter Laliberty, Westlock

The Year 1984-85

Plans for the transfer of C.H.P.C. to C.H.C.A. - Hope of C.H.C.A. for an Executive Director - Mid-Year Education Day - Mary Immaculate Hospital is 50 - St. Joseph's Hospital is 75 - Fr. Lacombe Nursing Home is 75 - Anniversary at Misericordia Hospital - Edmonton General Hospital is 90 - C.H.A.C. Convention in Alberta - Sisters of St. Martha honored by A.C.H.F.

Early in 1985, plans were underway to transfer efficiently the activities of the Planning Council to C.H.C.A. Letters from Dr. Harold MacNeil to Dr. Leo Klug, dated February 21, 1985 and March 21, 1985,(109) gave details of the gradual termination of the Planning Council's functions. The Planning Council was established in 1983 by the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation and the Catholic Health-Care Conference of Alberta, but it was only expected to operate for a two-year period as a temporary measure to coordinate and reorientate their respective functions.

The transfer of property, furniture and equipment, took place on April 1, 1985, and the Foundation agreed to continue to finance two-thirds of the office expenses. The Conference had been able to finance its share of one-third of the expenses over the past two years as a result of a 40% levy of membership fees added by the member institutions for that period. When the Planning Council

ceased to exist, C.H.C.A. Board decided to maintain this additional income, but not to increase membership fees in 1985.

In his letter of February 21, 1985, Dr. MacNeil indicated that it is “the hope and expectations (of the Foundation) that the Conference would soon have a full-time Executive Director.” Encouraged by this wish of the Foundation, and assured verbally of forthcoming financial backing, the Board immediately proceeded to establish a job description and advertise for the much-needed position of Executive Director.

At the March 14, 1985 meeting (110) the Board agreed to fill such a position by October 1, 1985. An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to prepare a Brief showing the need for an Executive Director at C.H.C.A. The functions of that person, the budget estimates followed by a request for funding assistance from the Foundation were included. During the C.H.A.C. Annual Meeting in Banff, in May, 1985, C.H.C.A. Board members held an emergency meeting to approve the prepared document. At the Board meeting of June 14, the President, Dr. Leo Klug, announced that the position had been advertised in the Western Catholic Reporter and stated that it would also appear in the Edmonton Journal, and in church Bulletins. Funding was the main stumbling block of this project, and several years would go by before the position of Executive Director was to be filled.

The Conference again offered a very successful Mid-Year Education Day on March 15, 1985, at the Grey Nuns Regional Centre. The speakers were Father Gilbert Gariepy, President of the Canadian Association for Pastoral Education, and Sister Rita Duncan, Chaplain at Edmonton General Hospital. Both speakers addressed the theme, “The Theological Basis for Pastoral Care” and “Who Does It?”

A record number of anniversary celebrations were held by member institutions in 1985. C.H.C.A. marked each one of these by sending an official representative and presenting a recognition plaque to:

- Mary Immaculate Hospital, Willingdon, who celebrated its 50th anniversary. Dr. Leo Klug, President, brought greetings on behalf of C.H.C.A.
- St. Joseph’s Hospital, Vegreville, who celebrated its 75th anniversary on June 15, 1985. Sister T. Castonguay, Vice President, made a presentation on behalf of C.H.C.A.

-
- Father Lacombe Nursing Home, Midnapore, who celebrated its 75th year on July 6. Board member, Mr. Stan Sawicki, represented C.H.C.A.
 - Misericordia Hospital, Edmonton, who celebrated the 85th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Misericorde in Edmonton, on August 21. The hospital had celebrated 75 years in 1980.
 - Edmonton General Hospital, who celebrated its 90th anniversary in 1985-86. Several C.H.C.A. members were present at the opening of a year of celebration on December 2, 1985. The presentation was made by the Past President, Dr. Leo Klug and Sr. Therese Castonguay, President and an employee of the hospital.

C.H.C.A. was also present at a reception held by the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation to honor the Sisters of St. Martha in Lethbridge on October 6, 1985.

The Forty-Second Annual Meeting

Site of Convention and attendance - Recognition Award presented - Theme: Holistic Health Care - A part-time Executive Assistant - Planning Council became a Committee - Workshop for Parish Council Representatives - Resolutions: Funding of Pastoral Care and involvement in Extended Care - New Board

The Annual Meeting was held at the Westin Hotel, Edmonton, on November 26, 1985, with approximately 150 members and guests present. Bishop Raymond Roy of St. Paul, Alberta, brought greetings on behalf of the Bishops of Alberta.

For the second year, a Recognition Award was presented. On this occasion, Dr. Melety Snihurowych was the chosen recipient for his health care work with the Ukrainian Catholics..

The theme of the Conference was "Holistic Health Care: A Christian Perspective". A Sister of Notre-Dame from Saskatoon, Sr. T. Prokes, was the keynote speaker. She captivated her audience with her creativity and eloquence.

In his report, President Dr. Leo Klug, informed the assembly that Dr. H. MacNeil will extend his commitment to work with the Foundation, the Planning Council, and the Conference. This good news obviated the necessity for the

Conference to hire an Executive Director at this time. Instead, Mrs. F. Gour, part-time secretary, was appointed as part-time Executive Assistant.

Dr. MacNeil reported on his continuing role with the Conference and the Foundation. He indicated that the Planning Council formed in 1983 for a two-year mandate, had now become a sub-committee of the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation.

Ms. Marie MacDonald reported on the activities of the Education Committee. She made special mention of a Workshop held on November 9, 1985; Parish Council representatives were invited. The focus of the workshop was to discover what was being done, and what can be done in parish health care activities. The day was rated as very successful.

Two main resolutions presented to the assembly and approved for action were related to:

- 1) Funding of Pastoral Care in health care facilities, and
- 2) Involvement of Catholic facilities in Extended Care.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Mr. Stan Sawicki, presented a slate of nominees which resulted in the following names on the 1985-86 Executive and Board of Directors:

President:	Sr. Therese Castonguay, Edmonton
Past President:	Dr. Leo Klug, Edmonton
Vice President:	Mr. Robert Robert, Vegreville
Secretary:	Ms. Marie MacDonald, Edmonton
Treasurer:	Mr. Lech Lacny, Lethbridge
Directors:	Sr. Sheila Brady, Camrose
	Bro. Leon Jansen, Calgary
	Dr. Harold MacNeil, Edmonton
	Mr. Stan Sawicki, Lethbridge
	Mr. Peter Verhesen, Trochu
Bishops' Representative:	Archbishop J. N. MacNeil, Edmonton
Chaplains' Representative:	Fr. Walter Laliberty, Westlock

The Year 1985-86

Membership increase - Executive Assistant appointed - C.H.A.C. Survey - Resolutions sent to C.H.A.C. - Role of Voluntary Hospitals - Bylaws revision - Innovative Education Plan - Banff Mineral Springs Hospital - Bylaws revision

completed - New name for C.H.C.A. - Mary Immaculate Hospital opened new program - Our Lady of Rosary Hospital celebrates 75 years - Changes on the Board

The year began with a record number of 140 personal members and 45 associate members, while the number of institutions remained at 18.

The Board held its regular post-Convention meeting on November 26, 1985. Approval was given for the new position of part-time Executive Assistant, and the appointment of Mrs. Florence Gour was ratified. Mrs. Gour had been part-time secretary since 1981.

A letter from Fr. Everett MacNeil, dated January 15, 1986,(111) informed C.H.C.A. that the National Association (C.H.A.C.) decided to conduct a major study of its seven provincial/regional Conferences. The purpose of the survey was to find ways to promote collaboration and eliminate duplication between the activities of the national and provincial levels. Sister Simone Roach was the appointed surveyor and she visited C.H.C.A. on March 5, 1986. A meeting with Sr. T. Castonguay, Dr. L. Klug, and C.H.C.A. representative on C.H.A.C. Board, Mr. Gerry Lang, provided Sister Roach with the material needed for her report concerning Alberta. Later in the year, the report was made available to the Conferences.

As usual, the Conference was invited to send resolutions to C.H.A.C. for its Annual Meeting. At the January 31, 1986 Board meeting, (112) two topics were discussed for resolution:

- 1) Care of AIDS patients in Catholic hospitals, and
- 2) The Catholic position on organ transplants.

Both topics were developed and sent to C.H.A.C.

C.H.A.C. held its convention in Alberta and chose Banff as the ideal site for this national event. The Western Provinces were richly represented, the location being so advantageous to reduce travel expenses. The theme was: "Lay Ministry and Health Care". Albertans were proud to hear Archbishop J. N. MacNeil speak to the national gathering on that occasion.

C.H.C.A.'s representative on the A.H.A. Board, Mr. Stan Sawicki, reported on a position paper of A.H.A. on the Role of Voluntary Hospitals. Since most voluntary hospitals in Alberta were Catholic institutions, Mr. Sawicki presented a carefully worded response to A.H.A. on behalf of C.H.C.A. to

acknowledge the value of the position paper while ensuring the accuracy of data included in A.H.A. records concerning our health care institutions.

An Executive Committee composed of the President, Past President, Vice President and Executive Assistant, was established to deal with urgent matters between Board meetings, as well as to prepare the agenda for Board meetings.

Revision and consolidation of Bylaws was required in 1986. The Board established a Bylaws Committee, chaired by Mr. Stan Sawicki, to accomplish this task with a mandate to obtain ratification of the new Bylaws at the 1986 Annual Meeting.

At the April 4, 1986 meeting, Education Chair, Dr. Leo Klug, informed the Board of an innovative plan to provide on-site educational opportunities for institution members. The format was to present a lead article with a tape of commentaries made by local experts to be sent to institutions as a basis for reflection and sharing among staff. The project continued for several years.

It was learned that the Sisters of St. Martha were planning to leave Mineral Springs Hospital, Banff. The Diocese of Calgary negotiated with the Minister of Health and the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation for an orderly transfer of ownership. Several years went by before changes were finalized.

The Bylaws Committee completed its task prior to the September 5, 1986 Board meeting. Ample time was left to ensure that all members received a copy of the draft twenty-one days before the Annual Meeting. The new Bylaws included a name change for the Catholic Health-Care Conference of Alberta (C.H.C.A.). When voted on, the new name became Catholic Health Association of Alberta (C.H.A.A.); this was to occur on April 9, 1987. It was known that Ontario had already changed its name from "Conference" to "Association." The next two years will see other provinces follow that trend. It was considered that the term "Association" conveyed the notion of autonomy and self-direction, better than "Conference", and the change seemed timely.

Mary Immaculate Hospital, Mundare, celebrated the official opening of the Mundare Mental Health Care Program on October 7, 1986. Unfortunately, all Board members were at a retreat on that day and it was impossible for C.H.C.A. to join the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate for the joyous event. A recognition plaque was sent by C.H.C.A. to the Sisters.

Our Lady of Rosary Hospital, Castor, marked its 75th anniversary. A plaque and a message of congratulations was presented to the owners, the Daughters of Wisdom, by Mr. Robert Robert, Vice President.

The President, with regret, informed the Board that Mr. Lech Lacny had resigned from his position on the Board. A letter of thanks was sent to Mr. Lacny, and the Board appointed Sr. Mary Ellen O'Neill to complete his unfinished term.

The Forty-Third Annual Meeting

250 persons attended the Convention - Bishop P. O'Byrne brought greetings - No Recognition Award -Conference on Ethics - President's Report: No provincial funding for Pastoral Care - Congratulations to a 50-year nurse - 1986-87 Board elected.

On November 25, 1986, approximately 250 persons gathered at the Westin Hotel in Edmonton for the Annual Meeting. Bishop Paul O'Byrne brought greetings from the Bishops of Alberta and remained with the participants for part of the day.

Once more the convention facility was graciously provided by A.H.A.

There was no Recognition Award presented that year as no nominations were received within the specified time.

A very timely topic was addressed: "Health Care Ethics: The Burden of Uncertainty." Father Thomas Dailey gave a masterful presentation and prepared the way for the afternoon panel, "Some Points of View" by a Hospital Administrator, Sr. Sheila Brady, and a Chaplain, Sr. Marcia Wiley.

In her President's Report, (113) Sr. T. Castonguay indicated that a letter had been received from the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care in response to the 1985 C.H.C.A. resolution on Funding for Pastoral Care. The letter said, in part: "The Department does not have plans to fund Pastoral Care in the near future." C.H.C.A., individual hospitals, A.H.A., and the Alberta Pastoral Care Association, have repeatedly presented requests for the funding of Pastoral Care over the years. The response was no more encouraging in 1986 than it had been in the past.

At the business meeting, the President offered congratulations to Sister Agnes Knievel from Trochu who recently was recognized by the A.A.R.N. for celebrating her 50th year of nursing.

It was also announced that a bi-monthly newsletter, C.H.C.A. News, published by C.H.C.A. office, was added as a supplement to the quarterly bulletin Christian Caring. Mr. Peter Verhesen was still the editor of the Bulletin.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Dr. Leo Klug, presented nominees for re-election, and the Board elected its officers. The 1986-87 Board was composed of the following:

President:	Sr. Therese Castonguay, Edmonton
Past President:	Dr. Leo Klug, Edmonton
Vice President:	Mr. Robert Robert, Vegreville
Secretary:	Ms. Marie MacDonald, Edmonton
Treasurer:	Sr. Sheila Brady, Camrose
Directors:	Bro. Leon Jansen, Calgary Dr. Harold MacNeil, Edmonton Sister Mary Ellen O'Neill Mr. Stan Sawicki, Lethbridge Mr. Peter Verhesen, Trochu
Bishops' Representative:	Archbishop J. N. MacNeil, Edmonton
Chaplains' Representative:	Fr. Walter Laliberty, Westlock

The Year 1986-87

National Catholic Nurses' Guild - C.H.A.C. office moved - C.H.C.A. financial concerns - New Bylaws re-touched - Mission Statement - Chaplains' Representative replacement - Vatican document on Bioethics - C.H.A.C. study of Pastoral Care - New logo for C.H.A.A. - Legislature motion re: hospital boards - Two Mid-Year Education Days - Immaculata Hospital's 60th Anniversary - Second visit of John Paul II - St. Joseph's Hospital's 60th anniversary - Grey Nuns 250th anniversary - C.H.A.C. Seminar on AIDS - A.H.A. Prayer Breakfast speaker - Executive Search Committee - Concerns in Edson

Early in the year 1987, there was a movement to re-establish a National Catholic Nurses' Guild. Mrs. Verna Sylvester from Manitoba wrote to the C.H.C.A. President on January 20, 1987, (114) requesting the Conference's support in this venture and announced an initial meeting to be held in Ottawa during the C.H.A.C. Convention, May 20 to 22, 1987. The Board agreed to

support this worthwhile project and sent a copy of Verna's letter to all member institutions, inviting them to delegate nurses to that important meeting.

There was good news at C.H.A.C. office in Ottawa as they have acquired a new location for their headquarters. The 312 Daly building was to be sold and the move to 1247 Kilborn Avenue was completed by February 1, 1987.

The January 23rd Board meeting (115) recorded "a great deal of concern about the financial situation of the Conference and the role of the office." In order to adequately apprise this concern, a Finance Committee was established and a request was made to the Planning Council, the A.C.H.F. and Archbishop J. N. MacNeil to hold a joint meeting and study the critical situation at hand. The meeting took place a year later, on January 20, 1988.

The new Bylaws, approved at the 1986 Annual Meeting, were adjusted in order to meet the requirements of the Societies Act. The Bylaws Committee was re-activated and minor revisions were presented to the membership at the 1987 Annual Meeting.

The year 1987 was to see a Mission Statement developed for C.H.C.A., now re-named Catholic Health Association of Alberta (C.H.A.A.). A number of drafts were prepared, revised, and finally presented to the membership at the 1987 Annual Meeting for ratification. The Mission Statement appears in Appendix II.

Father W. Laliberty informed the Board that he would be unable to serve another term as Chaplains' Representative due to the demands of his other commitments. Regrets were expressed to Father Laliberty for his departure and a letter of thanks was sent for his helpful contribution to the Board meetings since 1984.

In considering a replacement for the Chaplains' Representative on the Board, the new Bylaws were consulted and the rationale reviewed. Traditionally, chaplaincy in hospitals had been recognized as the role of a priest. With Pastoral Care Departments being formally organized in many hospitals, it became clear that education for Pastoral Care and the practice of that ministry were more frequently assumed by non-ordained persons. In fact, the majority of Chaplains in hospitals and other institutions such as universities, army, etc. were non-ordained persons. The Board, therefore, decided to implement the provision of the new Bylaws at that time. Article 4.1.3. noted as Board composition: "a

pastoral health care worker who shall be appointed by the Board annually.” (116) Several names were submitted by Board members, and the eventual choice went to the appointment of Sister Bernadette O’Neill from Red Deer as pastoral health care worker representative.

In a message dated March 12, 1987, Fr. Everett MacNeil, C.H.A.C. President, enclosed a Vatican document on Bioethics. He also announced that a C.H.A.C. Task Force was “currently at work on the revision of our Medico-Moral Guide”. This was welcome news at the provincial level. C.H.A.A. was to become involved in reviewing drafts of the C.H.A.C. Health Care Ethics Guide. (It will be several years before a finished product is completed.) Ethics in Health Care was becoming increasingly important, especially, but not exclusively, in Catholic health care facilities.

C.H.A.C. was also involved in a survey of Pastoral Care Services in Canadian Catholic hospitals. C.H.A.A. Board has been kept informed of the progress made. During the year of the survey, the National Association did not conduct its annual Pastoral Care Course. Instead, C.H.A.C. spent the time evaluating the program and planning revision.

The new name for Catholic Health Association of Alberta, and the new abbreviation C.H.A.A. required a new logo, new letterhead, new membership cards and new recognition award certificates. Board committees and the Executive Assistant became busy with these details and the unavoidable deadlines.

Is there ever a quiet, unruffled sea in the health care sector? C.H.A.A. was made aware of two upcoming motions in the legislature which, if passed, would adversely affect all privately owned hospitals in Alberta. These included:

- a motion to introduce legislation requiring that all members of hospital boards be elected, and
- a motion to consider developing a regional hospital board for each community having two or more hospitals.

After consulting with a number of knowledgeable persons, such as owners and administrators, C.H.A.A.’s President sent a letter to the Honorable Marvin Moore, Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care, protesting the two motions, with copies to the Premier and all members of the Legislature. At least fifteen responses were received showing sympathy for the opinion of C.H.A.A.

and its members. The end result was that the first motion concerning the election of hospital board members was passed, but it was strictly with regard to district hospitals. The second motion concerning regional hospital boards did not come up for debate in the Legislature.

For the first time in 1987, the Mid-Year Education Day was offered in Calgary as well as in Edmonton, thus facilitating easier participation by members of the southern part of Alberta. The experience proved highly successful and was to be repeated in the following years. On April 9 in Calgary, and April 10 in Edmonton, Father W. Marravee spoke on "Suffering: Its Impact ... Its Mystery". The innovation of holding a second day session was made possible through the hard work of the Education Committee, and the help of Brother Leon Jansen of Calgary, who was also a C.H.A.A. Board member.

The Sisters of Charity of Halifax celebrated the 60th Anniversary of Immaculata Hospital, Westlock, on June 9, 1987. President Sister T. Castonguay brought greetings from C.H.A.A. and presented the Sisters with a souvenir plaque. Mrs. Florence Gour also attended the event and was able to take pictures and gather information for the Summer issue of Christian Caring.

It was with joy that Edmonton welcomed the Pope for a second visit on his way to Fort Simpson. John Paul II was received at the Grey Nuns Regional Centre on the evening of September 19, 1987. Early on the 20th, he departed for a second attempt to visit Fort Simpson. This time the plane was able to land in this northern community to the great joy of the peoples.

Christian Caring is the new name for the quarterly Review published by C.H.A.A. The new name and the new look of the publication were added attractions. Compliments to the editor, Mr. Peter Verhesen continued to come in frequently.

Another 60th anniversary was celebrated on October 22 and 23, 1987; this time it was St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital, Edmonton. The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul were proud to take this opportunity to announce their plans for a new building which would replace their present facility. Sister T. Castonguay represented C.H.A.A. for these festivities and presented a souvenir plaque to the Sisters on that occasion.

C.H.A.A. was pleased to join in the celebrations by the Grey Nuns throughout 1987-88, to recognize the 250th anniversary of their congregation founded in Ville-Marie (now Montreal) on December 31, 1737.

At the meeting of March 27, 1987, the Board considered the request of C.H.A.C. to hold a Seminar on AIDS in Edmonton and obtain C.H.A.A.'s assistance for the event. The request was accepted and encouraged. The Seminar was held on October 15 and 16 at the Edmonton Inn.

When A.H.A. requested suggestions for a speaker for their Prayer Breakfast, usually held during their Convention, C.H.A.A. suggested a few names and Father Bob Ogle was selected. The speaker's renown drew a record attendance, as well as much appreciation from the audience.

An Executive Search Committee was set up and chaired by Sr. T. Castonguay. The purpose of the Committee was to:

- update an earlier proposal and job description for an Executive Director, and
- proceed with the recruitment and selection of a suitable candidate for the much needed position.

The year 1986-87 came to a close on a note of concern for the survival of another member hospital. The Sisters of Service, owners and operators of St. John's Health Care Complex in Edson, notified the Planning Council of their intention to relinquish ownership of their institution. Dr. H. MacNeil indicated that if the Edson community wished to retain the Catholic character of the Health Care Complex, the Foundation would form a corporation and obtain Government approval to operate it as was done at the Misericordia Hospital and Lethbridge. Dr. MacNeil also mentioned that Mineral Springs Hospital in Banff was in the process of obtaining similar approval.

The Forty-Fourth Annual Meeting

New name, new logo, new Bylaws - Fr. J. Hamilton represented the Bishops of Alberta - Recognition Award - Theme of Convention: "Leadership: A Health Care Ministry" - Bylaws revised - Application to A.C.H.F. to fund Executive Director position - A Mission Statement for C.H.A.A. - New Board of Directors

C.H.A.A., under its new name, its new logo and its new Bylaws, held its 1987 Annual Meeting on November 24 at the Westin Hotel, Edmonton. The Bishops of Alberta, being unable to attend the Convention, delegated Fr. J. Hamilton, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Edmonton, to bring greetings on their behalf. The Honorable Marvin Moore was also present.

The immediate Past President, Dr. Leo Klug, was designated to introduce the 1987 Recognition Award to the Sisters who had pioneered health care in Edmonton and in many other centres of Alberta, namely the Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns) of Montreal. Sister Faye Wylie, Provincial Superior, received the award from the Honorable Marvin Moore, Minister of Health. Sister Wylie noted the significance of the event in the year that the Grey Nuns were celebrating their 250th year of foundation, and expressed warm thanks for this memorable honor.

The theme of the Convention was “Leadership: A Health Care Ministry”. Approximately 150 persons registered and came to hear Fr. Everett MacNeil speak on this most relevant topic. Father MacNeil’s presentation was complemented by a panel in light of day-to-day work on ‘the front line’ of hospital ministry.

During the Annual Meeting, Sister T. Castonguay, in her President’s Report, (117) stated that minor revisions to the 1986 Bylaws were sent to the membership and a revised version of the Bylaws was now ready for approval. These were approved and re-dated November, 1987.

The President also announced that the Association (C.H.A.A.) was in the process of renewing an application to the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation for funds to hire a full-time Executive Director.

A Mission Statement for C.H.A.A. was presented to the assembly which was approved as a basis for C.H.A.A.’s definition and direction.

Dr. Leo Klug, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented a list of nominees who were all elected by acclamation. The Board of Directors for 1987-88 was thus composed as follows:

President:	Mr. Robert Robert, Vegreville
Past President:	Sr. Therese Castonguay, Edmonton
Vice President:	Bro. Leon Jensen, Calgary
Secretary:	Sr. Mary Ellen O’Neill, Bonnyville
Treasurer:	Sr. Sheila Brady, Camrose
Directors:	Dr. Harold MacNeil, Edmonton
	Mr. F. M. (Bud) Pals, Castor
	Mr. Peter Quigg, Lethbridge
	Mr. William Veness, St. Albert

Bishops' Representative: Archbishop J. N. MacNeil, Edmonton
Pastoral Health Care
Representative: Sister Bernadette O'Neill, Red Deer

The Year 1987-88

Meeting with A.C.H.F. - C.H.A.A. history to be written - Board's Annual Retreat - Seeking support -C.H.A.C. study of its structure - The Hyndman Commission - Supreme Court Ruling on Abortion - Grey Nuns Hospital - Banff Mineral Springs Hospital - The Mirosh Report - Joint Executive Director position approved - Fee structure revised

A C.H.A.A. meeting with the Foundation was arranged for January 20, 1988. The purpose was to ascertain whether C.H.A.A. would be financially supported by A.C.H.F. in the hiring of a full-time Executive Director (118). The meeting was informative, historic, but inconclusive. Mr. Fred Barth, Chair of A.C.H.F., indicated the Foundation's interest and appreciation of C.H.A.A.'s work. He also assured C.H.A.A. that his Board would consider the Association's request for funding at their next meeting. Unfortunately, once more A.C.H.F. was not in a position to provide the expected funding, and therefore, the position of Executive Director was once again tabled until a more opportune time(119).

At the Executive Committee meeting of January 20, 1988, a request was received from C.H.A.C. to obtain some historical material concerning our provincial Association. Up to that point, C.H.A.A. had preserved its documents, but had not organized nor chronicled them for use by historians. Sister T. Castonguay volunteered to spend a few days to gather basic information in response to C.H.A.C.'s request. Little did she know that this volunteer work would mushroom into a full-blown account of the first fifty years of C.H.A.A.'s history.

The Board held its Annual Retreat on February 4 and 5, 1988, at the Grey Nuns' Regional Centre. The agenda included the orientation of new members; a morning session of reflection led by Dr. Leo Klug on "Owning our Mission Statement"; and a regular business meeting.

In order to obtain revenue from other associations who support the objectives of C.H.A.A., the Board agreed that there was a need to contact the Bishops and parish priests as well as groups such as Catholic Women's League (C.W.L.), Parish Councils, Knights of Columbus (K. of C.). In addition, the

President, Robert Robert, “volunteered to visit all member institutions and do a survey of their needs.”

The Board was informed by Dr. Leo Klug, that C.H.A.C. formed a task force to examine its structure. The process was to be a long drawn-out series of meetings and consultations which focussed on fee structure, financing, and representation. The 80’s will close before a conclusion is reached. It is noted here with gratitude, that Dr. Leo Klug graciously agreed to continue attending C.H.A.A.’s Board meetings as the unofficial link with C.H.A.C. Board.

As 1988 began, the health care world in Alberta was unsettled as a result of a nurses’ strike. The Honorable Don Getty, Premier of Alberta, received the nurses’ concerns sympathetically. This resulted in the establishment of the Hyndman Commission on “Future Health Care for Albertans”. C.H.A.A. joined efforts with the A.C.H.F. to present a Brief to the Commission. The Brief covered major points such as: holistic health care, importance of pastoral care, recognition of bioethics issues, and role of voluntary hospitals.

The troubling ethical question of abortion arose again on January 28, 1988 when the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Section 251 of the Criminal Code was unconstitutional, and should be abolished. This gave full access to abortion in Canada. Letters were written to the Prime Minister and other elected officials to protest such an undesirable situation, and to recommend the development of a new law which would recognize and protect the life of the unborn child. In addition, the Board invited Fr. Thomas Dailey to present a complete ethical picture at its April 8 meeting so that, individually, Board members might continue to advocate the rights of the unborn and the sanctity of life.

On May 5, 1988, several members of C.H.A.A. Board responded to an invitation to attend the Official Opening of the Grey Nuns Hospital in Millwoods. This was a meaningful, historical day because the Government of Alberta thus recognized Catholic ownership of health care institutions. It seemed appropriate to give some details of the events leading up to this day.

The Edmonton General Hospital was founded by the Grey Nuns in 1895, the first hospital in Edmonton.(120) New additions and expansions of the original facility located downtown had, by the 70’s and early 80’s clearly indicated that a major construction project would be required. When plans were ready for approval, funds were refused for expanding acute care facilities in the

downtown location. Instead, the Government offered the Grey Nuns an opportunity to take ownership and operate the new acute care hospital being built in southeast Edmonton in Millwoods. At the same time, assurance was given that funds would be granted to renovate and adapt the existing downtown facility and develop a 285 bed auxiliary hospital, in addition to being allowed to continue with the Geriatric Rehabilitation activities in the Youville Wing. Conditions posed by the Grey Nuns concerning ethics, pastoral care, chapel and other points, were acceptable by the Government and, the celebration of May 5th was thus made possible.

A news release of June 6, 1988 announced the completion of arrangements with the Government to transfer ownership responsibility of Mineral Springs Hospital, Banff, to the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation. This was the third such transfer within the last twelve years; a trend which created much hope and enthusiasm in the field of Catholic health care.(121)

The Mirosh Report, published in 1988, was the result of a Government Commission. The report, entitled: "A New Vision for Long-Term Care: Meeting the Need", showed foresight and real "vision". However, this new vision was sadly lacking in the dimension of holistic care for long-term patients. C.H.A.A. was concerned that pastoral care was totally absent in the health care team, and sent a Brief to Mrs. Diane Mirosh, MLA, Chair, Long-Term Care Committee, strongly promoting the need to consider the spiritual values and needs of the long-term patient.

A special meeting of the Board was held October 21, 1988, to review two major items. The good news was that A.C.H.F. had indicated its decision to sponsor the hiring of a joint Executive Director. The sombre news was that C.H.A.A.'s financial position was recognized as very precarious. A new fee structure was proposed which was to raise serious questions, especially from institutions which were very heavily taxed by the increase. It was hoped that the future Executive Director would ensure that quality service would be provided to member institutions and would help compensate for the high membership costs.

The Forty-Fifth Annual Meeting

Bishop Greschuk brought greetings from the Bishops -Dr. H. MacNeil honored President's visits to institutions - C.H.A.A. became "charitable organization" - New Board elected

C.H.A.A. held its Annual Meeting on November 22, 1988, the day preceding the A.H.A. Convention. The Westin Hotel in Edmonton was the site selected for the event, and again, the facility was graciously provided by the A.H.A. Greetings from the Alberta Bishops were expressed by Bishop D. M. Greschuk of the Edmonton Ukrainian Eparchy. There were approximately 150 persons in attendance for the one-day convention.(122)

The Association chose Dr. Harold MacNeil as the recipient of the 1988 Recognition Award. His untiring efforts in setting up the Planning Council, and his strong advocacy for Catholic health care in Alberta, were cited as his major contributions to C.H.A.A. In responding to the citation, Dr. MacNeil said, "I treasure this as one of the greatest honors that I have ever received."

The business part of the day included the President's Report. Mr. Robert Robert announced that to date he had visited eight of the eighteen member institutions and had been accompanied by one or two members of the Board or the office. These visits seemed to have contributed to enhanced communications and understanding with the owners and administrators of Catholic health care institutions in Alberta.

The membership was informed that C.H.A.A. has applied for, and received charitable organization status. In the hope of receiving increased numbers of donations, it became expedient that C.H.A.A. be given the ability to issue official receipts which this new status included.

The Chair of the Nominating Committee, Sister Therese Castonguay, presented a slate for election. All candidates were elected by acclamation. The new Board elected its officers, and the 1988-89 Board was as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| President: | Mr. Robert Robert, Vegreville |
| Past President: | Sr. Therese Castonguay, Edmonton |
| Vice President: | Bro. Leon Jansen, Calgary |
| Secretary: | Sr. Mary Ellen O'Neill, Bonnyville |
| Treasurer: | Mr. William Veness, St. Albert |
| Directors: | Sr. Sheila Brady, Camrose
Dr. J. A. O'Brien, Edmonton
Mr. F. M. (Bud) Pals, Castor
Mr. Peter Quigg, Lethbridge |
| Bishops' Representative: | Archbishop J. N. MacNeil, Edmonton |
| Pastoral Health Care Representative: | Sr. Bernadette O'Neill, Red Deer |

The Year 1988-89

Post-Convention Meeting - Fee Increase questioned - Donations received - Executive Director hired - 50th Anniversary Committee set up - Pastoral Care 'Person of the Year' - Report of visits to member institutions - Centre for Ethics in Health Care and Biology - Opening of new St. Mary's Hospital, Camrose - Archbishop Routhier - St. Mary's Hospital, Trochu, celebrated 80 years - An important Seminar

As usual, the agenda of the post-Convention meeting held in the evening of November 22, 1988, included the election of officers, ratification of the nomination to various Boards, and scheduling of meetings for the ensuing year.

The Board was aware that a considerable number of questions were raised in relation to the institutional fee increase. The .025% of the institution's budget amounted to a much larger increase than anticipated, especially for large hospitals. In order to adequately consider and answer all questions, there was an additional meeting of the Board called for January 13, 1989. The meeting achieved its goal in clarifying the issue and supporting the need for additional revenue if C.H.A.A. was to meet efficiently its objectives in future years.(123)

There was heart-warming information in the "Office Activities" report of January 13, 1989, (124) as well as in the Minutes of the Board meeting of the same date. Several religious congregations and parishes have recently made donations to C.H.A.A., thus providing a welcome injection of survival funds. The Grandin Province of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate has pledged a three-year commitment amounting to a very helpful assistance to C.H.A.A. The Redemptorists have likewise proved their generosity, as well as St. Bonaventure Parish in Calgary. In addition, the Grey Nuns accommodated the Board Retreat Days for several years at no cost. Not only were these donations welcome for the financial boost provided, they were a tremendous encouragement to C.H.A.A. to pursue its mission.

Good news continued to flow into the Association. A hasty note from President Robert Robert to all members of C.H.A.A., broadcast the long-awaited choice of the Executive Search Committee. Miss Kathy O'Neill was appointed Joint Executive Director for C.H.A.A. and A.C.H.F. with full funding for the position by the Foundation.(125) At the first Board meeting which followed her appointment, Kathy was officially welcomed and Board members were informed that a Missioning Ceremony would be held during the Mid-Year Education Days, on March 30 in Calgary and March 31 in Edmonton.

The Minutes of April 21, 1989 indicated that C.H.A.A. formed a committee to plan its 50th Anniversary Celebrations for 1993. Sr. T. Castonguay was nominated to chair the committee. It was later decided that the celebrations would begin at the 1992 Annual Meeting and continue for one year.

The Alberta Pastoral Care Association had, for a number of years, chosen a "Pastoral Care Person of the Year" and presented this recognition at its annual meeting. In the year 1989, this honor was bestowed upon Brother Leon Jansen, C.H.A.A. Vice President, for his "outstanding and exemplary pastoral work in the province during the past year", as stated in the letter of May 8, 1989 from A.P.C.A. President, Reverend G. Chapman. The Spring issue of C.H.A.A.'s Christian Caring proudly reported the event to the membership.(126)

Earlier, in his presidency term, Mr. Robert Robert made a courageous commitment that he would visit all member institutions. A comprehensive report of these visits was presented to the Board in April, 1989 when 90% of the visits were completed. Generally, there was satisfaction on the part of the institutions and on the part of those who visited. The project was rated as productive in terms of enhancing relationships and identifying areas where C.H.A.A.'s assistance could be offered, such as Mission education and bioethics.

The field of bioethics had been receiving particular attention in Alberta since the latter part of 1988. A new Centre for Ethics in Health Care and Biology was created at St. Joseph's College, and is funded by the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation, the Misericordia Hospital, and the Grey Nuns. Once fully operational, the Centre will provide courses, consultations, research, and information in the field of ethics. Recruitment for an Executive Director was undertaken. Father Thomas Dailey, a well-known ethicist was the successful candidate. He assumed the position on July 1, 1990.

June 23, 1989, marked the official opening of the new facility at St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose. C.H.A.A. President, Mr. R. Robert presented a plaque to the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul on this memorable occasion.

St. Mary's Hospital, Trochu, celebrated its 80th year of service on August 12, 1989. C.H.A.A. President and the Executive Director attended the event and presented a commemorative plaque to the Sisters of Charity of Evron.

C.H.A.A. was saddened at the news that a long-time friend and supporter had died on July 19, 1989. Archbishop Henri Routhier, O.M.I. had

served C.H.A.A. as Bishops' representative from 1973 to 1977. He was the first Bishop to fill that position, creating a tradition which proved to be a vital link with the Bishops of Alberta. He was a source of encouragement to Catholic health care.

A long awaited opportunity finally arrived on October 6, 1989. Owners, administrators and Board chairpersons met with C.H.A.A. Board, the Foundation and the Bishops, for a strategic session to deepen everyone's understanding of "Catholic Health Care: Its Uniqueness, its Essence". Reflections led by Fr. Everett MacNeil and Brother Tom Maddix presented the six C's of "Catholic, Corporate Culture which implies Compassion-based Care grounded in Christ." While renewing the participants' conviction of the need and importance of Catholic health care in Alberta, the seminar renewed everyone's vigor and enthusiasm to face the challenges ahead.(127)

The Forty-Sixth Annual Meeting

Record Attendance - Recognition Award - New Board elected

The 1989 Convention was held on November 28, 1989 at the Westin Hotel, Edmonton, a facility graciously provided by the A.H.A. as in the past several years. A well chosen theme: "Care for the Caregiver", along with outstanding speakers: Fr. Bob Ogle and Sr. Simone Roach, contributed to a record attendance of 360 persons.

C.H.A.A. presented a Recognition Award to Mr. R. D. (Dick) Gruenwald from Lethbridge. The citation mentioned that Mr. Gruenwald was best remembered for his contribution on St. Michael's Hospital Board during the time when the very existence of the hospital was threatened. In his response, the grateful recipient indicated: "We must continue our efforts to preserve the Catholic system of health care in the province."(128)

Three positions were available for replacement on the Board. The Chair of the Nominating Committee, Mr. R. Robert, presented the nominations. There was no election held. The new Board for 1989-90 is given below:

President:	Bro. Leon Jansen, Calgary
Past President:	Mr. Robert Robert, Vegreville
Vice President:	Mr. F. M. (Bud) Pals, Castor
Secretary:	Sr. Janice Soluk, Mundare
Treasurer:	Mr. Peter Quigg, Lethbridge

Directors:	Mr. Gerry Hiebert, Edmonton Mr. David Luginbuhl, Calgary Dr. J. A. O'Brien, Edmonton Sr. Mary Ellen O'Neill, Bonnyville Mr. William Veness, St. Albert
Bishops' Representative: Pastoral Health Care Representative:	Bishop Paul O'Byrne, Calgary Sister Claire MacNeil, Calgary

The Year 1989 - 90

Bishops' Representative change - Residency program at Misericordia Hospital - Board Retreat - Edson Crisis - Killam situation - Rainbow Report - Representation on A.H.A. Board - Educational events - Special Events: Misericordia, St. Joseph's (Vegreville), Father Lacombe, Mineral Springs, Killam - St. Michael's Extended Care - CHAA Video - Bishop Greschuk died - President on leave - Daughters of Wisdom rejoicing

After thirteen years as Bishops' Representative on CHAA Board, Archbishop J.N. MacNeil was replaced by Bishop O'Byrne of Calgary. The decision resulted from a redistribution of tasks within the Alberta Conference of Catholic Bishops.(129) Regrets were expressed at Archbishop J.N. MacNeil's departure from the Board. His dedication to the cause of Catholic health care in Alberta has always been considered a blessing and a precious support.

Bishop Paul O'Byrne's first meeting as Bishops' Representative was April 20, 1990.(130) He was welcomed as a long standing supporter of CHAA. In his letter of March 15, 1990 to Kathy O'Neill, Bishop O'Byrne indicated his hope to be of assistance to the CHAA Board inasmuch as he would be able to attend meetings, recognizing his many other commitments. He expressed in his letter the often whispered desire of CHAA: "It would be wonderful if all the Bishops of Alberta could be present at your Annual Meetings..."

The CHAA Board was informed at the February 8, 1990 meeting that the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation had agreed to support a residency program at the Misericordia Hospital for Administrators of Catholic hospitals. Plans were under way to develop such a program.

The meeting of February 8 was followed by a retreat on February 9. When the date of the retreat was decided several months previously, there was

very little indication that a crisis in Edson would be uppermost in the minds of Board members on that chosen date.

Several times in the history of St. John's Hospital in Edson, the Sisters of Service have expressed uncertainties in the future of their ownership role of that hospital and their ownership of the facility. The Sisters founded St. John's Hospital in 1926 and have provided outstanding health care services to the people of Edson and the surrounding area. This fact was attested to in numerous letters from patients, including a letter dated September 3, 1987 to Dr. Harold MacNeil by three residents of Edson, which stated in part: The Sisters have served us well... They have steadfastly upheld and preserved the dignity of each patient, whether they be born or not yet born, to their right to life."(131)

When the General Council of the Sisters of Service decided to withdraw from St. John's Health Care Center and sell their equity, contacts were made with ACHF so that the change of ownership would not endanger the nature of St. John's as a Catholic hospital. Plans were progressing well in that direction when Health Minister Nancy Betkowski announced at a Constituency meeting that St. John's Health Care Center would be transferred to the Municipality. The blow of that January 30, 1990 announcement was to result in loud and serious objections voiced by the Hospital Board, the Citizens of Edson, the Edson Ministerial Association, the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation, the Catholic Health Association of Alberta and many organized groups of Edson.

Letters of protest poured in. Individual, Associate and Institutional members of CHAA wrote to Premier Getty, Health Minister Betkowski and their respective MLA's, and articles in the Edson Report, the Western Catholic Reporter, the Edmonton Journal protested this decision. Several groups requested meetings with the government, and Briefs were prepared to request government to hear the voice of the people and rescind its decision. CHAA has accumulated thick piles of the above documentation during that period. A decision for St. John's Health Care Center's ownership was indeed a unique opportunity to identify an immense crowd of supporters. By the end of the year 1989-90, no final conclusion had been reached and glimmers of hope were still on the horizon.

At the time of this crisis, another member hospital decided to change ownership. The Sisters of St. Joseph, London had owned and operated the General Hospital in Killam since 1930. Their decision to withdraw was

announced in 1989, to be effective on March 31, 1990. The minister of Health, however, decided to delay a final settling of the ownership and operation of the General Hospital in Killam until the Edson situation could be resolved.

On February 12, 1990, the Hyndman Commission released its Rainbow Report on "Future Health Care for Albertans". The \$4.2 Million - three volume report - was considered futuristic from several points of view, but apart from recommending Ethics considerations, it made no reference to the spiritual aspects of health care. At the April 20 meeting, the Board requested Board member, Dr. J. O'Brien, to set up a committee and prepare a response to the Premier. The mandate of the committee was to emphasize the need to include Pastoral Care in a blueprint for holistic health care and recommend the importance of Palliative Care in hospitals and in the community. Later, a Joint Submission by CHAA, ACHF and the Alberta Bishops became the final document presented to the Premier of Alberta.

In the year 1989-90, the Alberta Hospitals Association began the process of a thorough revision of its Bylaws. CHAA was informed of an early recommendation of the Bylaw Subcommittee which would have resulted in the deletion of CHAA representation on the A.H.A. Board, a practice established in the early fifties. After a careful review of CHAA-A.H.A. joint endeavours in the past four decades and the eloquent communications by CHAA representative on the A.H.A. Board, Mr. F.M.(Bud) Pals, the recommendation was defeated by the A.H.A. Board. CHAA was delighted that the relationship between the two Associations was allowed to continue into the future.

Three important educational events were offered in early 1990. Each event drew an audience of 100 to 150 persons and was rated as very successful.

- January 19, 1990, "Aging as a Spiritual Journey" was presented in Edmonton by Dr. Kathleen Fisher. It was sponsored jointly by CHAA and the Good Samaritan Society.
- March 29 and 30, 1990, "Moral Decision-Making in the Clinical Setting" was presented by Fr. Norbert Novak. This was a one-day session offered in Calgary and in Edmonton.
- April 27, 1990, CHAA held its "Second Annual Mission Day". The morning included a joint presentation on "Living our Mission: The Ongoing Challenge" by Lt. Col. C. Boyden and Major Luginbuhl from Grace Hospital, Calgary. In the afternoon, Fr. R. Rolheiser spoke on the "Spirituality of Caring".

Christian Caring noted with pride the special events of six institutional members during 1990.(132)

- Misericordia Hospital, Edmonton, marked the 90th Anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Misericorde in Edmonton to open a house for unwed mothers in 1900, five years before the foundation of the hospital.
- St. Joseph's General Hospital, Vegreville, was founded in 1910 by the Sisters of Charity of Evron - 80 years ago.
- Father Lacombe Nursing Home in Midnapore was founded 80 years ago in 1910 by the Sisters of Providence of Montreal.
- Mineral Springs Hospital, Banff, was 60 years old. It was founded in 1930 by the Sisters of St. Martha.
- Killam General Hospital was also 60 years old. It was founded in 1930 by the Sisters of St. Joseph of London.
- St. Michael's Extended Care Centre held the grand opening of their Millennium Pavilion on August 3, 1990.

CHAA has been busy in 1989-90 preparing a video production: "Spirit of Catholic Health Care." Each institutional member was given a complimentary copy to assist staff in their mission education activities.

On July 8, the first Alberta-born spiritual leader of Edmonton's 35,000 member Ukrainian Catholic community died of a massive heart attack. Bishop Demetrius Greschuk had been consecrated a Bishop on October 3, 1974 and took full responsibility for the Edmonton Eparchy in 1985 as successor to Bishop Neil Savaryn. Bishop Greschuk was a strong supporter of CHAA, and his death was considered a great loss to Catholic health care in Alberta, as well as to the Ukrainian Catholic community.

Christian Caring, in its Fall 1990 issue (133) announced that the CHAA President, Brother Leon Jansen was taking a leave of absence from September, 1990 to May, 1991. Mr. F.M. (Bud) Pals became the Acting President during that period of time. Brother Leon had accepted a fellowship and internship in Medical Ethics at Pope John XXIII Ethics and Research Centre, Braintree, Mass.

The owners of Our Lady of Rosary Hospital in Castor, the Daughters of Wisdom, celebrated a special event on July 10, 1990 when their foundress, Mother Marie de Jesus, was declared "Venerable" by Pope John Paul II. CHAC INFO (134) proudly mentioned their congratulations in the October, 1990 issue.

The Forty-Seventh Annual Meeting

Pre-Convention Reception - Site and attendance - Two Bishops present - Recognition awards - Theme: "Focus on our strengths"
- Resolutions: Pastoral Care funding; Role of Voluntary Health Care - New Board.

An innovation occurred on the evening prior to the Annual Meeting. A Wine and Cheese reception was held for Board members and some forty special guests. On that occasion, a superb talk was given by Fr. William Irwin on the first Canadian-born to be canonized, Marguerite d'Youville.

The Annual Meeting was held at the Westin Hotel, Edmonton, on November 26, 1990. Accommodations were again graciously provided by the A.H.A. Approximately 220 persons attended.

An event that had not happened since 1970 was the presence of two Bishops at the Convention: Archbishop J.N. MacNeil and Bishop P.B. O'Byrne. This was noted with gratitude and a sense of pride for the Church of Alberta.

Two Recognition Awards were presented. One was presented to Mr. Peter Fuhrmann, Chair, Board of Directors, Mineral Springs Hospital in Banff for his dedication and hard work in completing the transfer of the hospital to the Foundation (ACHF), thus maintaining its Catholic identity.

The second Special Award was presented to Archbishop J.N. MacNeil in recognition for his twelve years as Bishops' Representative on the CHAA Board, for his untiring efforts to promote and support Catholic health care in Alberta and for his leadership in the origins and continuation of the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation since the mid-seventies.

The education highlight of the convention was the conference given by Brother Tom Maddix, C.S.C. on "Focus on Our Strengths". Comments heard from participants were most positive. Focusing on our strengths was affirming and encouraging for CHAA and its members.

The afternoon panel reviewing the keynote address from various perspectives was chaired by Mr. Anton Pawley. Presentations were made by Sr. T. Castonguay (historical), Mr. M. Higgins (A.H.A.), Bishop P. O'Byrne (Church), Mrs. Barbara Waksel (administration) and Dr. H. MacNeil (global picture and future challenges).

At the Annual Meeting, two resolutions were voted upon. The first one concerned funding of Pastoral Care which recommended the solicitation of the support of other faith groups for future government requests. The second resolution raised questions on the understanding of government on the role of Voluntary Denominational Health Care facilities.

The Nominating Committee Report was given by Mr. Robert Robert. The Board of Directors and Executive for 1990-91 was listed as follows:

President:	Mr. F.M. (Bud) Pals, Castor
Past President:	Bro. Leon Jansen, Calgary (in absentia)
Vice President:	Mr. Gerry Hiebert, Edmonton
Secretary:	Sr. Janice Soluk, Mundare
Treasurer:	Mr. Peter Quigg, Lethbridge
Directors:	Mr. Peter Fuhrmann, Banff Major David Luginbuhl, Calgary Dr. J. A. O'Brien, Edmonton Sr. Mary Ellen O'Neill, Bonnyville
Bishops' Representative: Pastoral Health Care Representative:	Bishop Paul O'Byrne Sr. Claire MacNeil, Calgary

The Year 1990-91

Marguerite d'Youville canonized - Canada at war - A Board member died - A new venture in Edmonton - Plans for a year of celebration

The new year for CHAA began with a note of glory for the Canadian Catholic Church as mentioned in Christian Caring, Fall 1990:

“On December 9, 1990, Pope John Paul II canonized Marguerite d'Youville. This historic event touched all of us, especially those of us who are involved in caring for others. The legacy left by Marguerite d'Youville to us all is one of unselfish caring, humility and compassion. Two hundred years after her death, her spirit lives on through her foundation, the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, “Grey Nuns”.

The Grey Nuns own and operate hospitals, schools of nursing and nursing homes around the world. The Sisters have pioneered nursing and hospital care wherever they have been asked to fulfill this mission. CHAA is privileged to count among its

member institutions The Edmonton General Hospital, The Grey Nuns Hospital and Youville Nursing Home.”(135)

CHAA delegated its Executive Director, Kathy O’Neill, to attend the canonization ceremony in Rome.

In the short span of this Chronicle, a third major war broke out in which Canada was involved. The 1917 and 1939 World Wars left scars in our country. Again on January 16, 1991, Canada was present in the Persian Gulf when the war began against Iraq who had invaded Kuwait. The United States-led Coalition of the United Nations declared victory fifty-two days later, on February 27, 1991.

At that time also, CHAA was saddened by the shocking and untimely death of Peter Quigg at the age of 37, on February 22, 1991. Peter was a board member since 1987 and had just been re-elected in November, 1990 for a further three-year term. He had been Treasurer since 1988. Kathy O’Neill, Executive Director and Florence Gour, Executive Assistant represented the Association at Peter’s funeral in Lethbridge.

In early 1991, a surprising chain of events lead to the two largest institutional members embarking on a joint venture. The General Hospital (Grey Nuns) of Edmonton received the resignation of its President, Mr. David J. Hart on January 3, 1991 and immediately began a search for a suitable replacement only to interrupt the search within a month. Board chair, Mr. Ric Forest, in consultation with Corporation President, Sister Faye Wylie and Misericordia Hospital Board Chair, Mr. Peter Watson courageously began discussions to find innovative ways for better patient care, greater efficiency of service and strengthening of Catholic health care in Edmonton.

A Task Force was established and progress was remarkable when this story was written.

During the year 1990-91, the 50th Anniversary Committee finalized most of the general plans for CHAA celebrations to occur in 1992-93. The Committee chaired by Sister Therese Castonguay included John Boucher from The General Hospital (Grey Nuns) of Edmonton, Lillian Collins from the Misericordia Hospital, Jan Moore from the Alberta Hospitals Association and Kathy O’Neill and Florence Gour from CHAA. An extended committee met once a year and included one representative from each institutional member.

A critical path was prepared early in the planning and included several major events:

- Choice of a theme and logo in November 1990.
- Launching of a Mission of Caring in November 1991.
- Launching of the History of Catholic hospitals in Alberta, in 1992.
- Annual meetings of 1992, 1993 and Mid-year Education Day of 1993 to highlight the major thrust of CHAA by the presentation of outstanding programs on Ethics, Mission and Pastoral Care.

In addition, the institutional representatives were planning local celebrations in several towns and cities of Alberta. The year 1990-91 continues, building on the past, shaping the future.

CONCLUSION: THE FUTURE BEGINS

The future begins now, at this very moment when it merges with the past. The future of CHAA is built on the past, fulfilling it, presenting it as a gift to the next generation.

This Chronicle of the First Fifty Years is concluded with some predictions which draw from the past to anticipate the future.

Looking back at the major crises in CHAA history, we are struck by the fact that many Catholic hospitals have been relinquished to the government, and that many losses of membership have been experienced. In a period of six years (1969-74), eleven Catholic hospitals were sold to the provincial government and have lost their Catholic identity (See Appendices V and Va).

CHAA has gone through fire. The fire of losses and a sharp decrease in numbers; the fire of decreased autonomy and increased government restrictions; the fire of reduction in sisterhoods; the fire of having to make some hasty, perhaps inappropriate decisions in relinquishing ownership. It is hoped that these are fires that purify, enlighten and instill hope for future challenges.

Hope has once again been restored and it is alive in the confidence that will bring us to the end of these fifty years of history. In faith we dare to predict that:

- the trend of decreasing numbers of Catholic health care institutions has ended.
- the commitment and dedication of owners, administrators and workers in member institutions has regained a strength and determination worthy of comparison with CHAA's pioneers. Religious church owners now work hand-in-hand with their lay collaborators.
- the creation of the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation has marked a turning point where the Bishops, the community and the health care family are now jointly and deeply involved in preserving the heritage of Catholic health care.
- the strength and wisdom of CHAA will continue to increase as other denominational leaders are welcomed to join and to serve on the Board of Directors; in making joint presentations to the government and in sharing a unified vision of Christianity.
- CHAA will receive new vigor through greater collaboration being

continued between institutional members and, the institutions will reap new dynamism in the years ahead.

- building on the past, fulfilling it with a new vision on our mission has become the real motivation, the daring challenge to an ever-pointing future.

Religious congregations and their collaborators have lived through many uncertain, even shattering experiences in the area of Catholic health care. Focusing on our strengths has resulted in our renewed energy, in our creative, heroic and often daring attempts to build a successful future on the past and fulfill it according to the plan of God.

Those who have lived the first fifty years of CHAA are now presenting us with a past thoroughly imbued with a sense of ministry, a spirituality inspired by their founders' life, a solidarity with the poor, the voiceless, the marginalized, and a mission of hospitality.(136) This gift is presented prayerfully to those who will carry the flame toward the next fifty years and beyond.

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APPENDICES

- I. Letter to Priests of Alberta, September 25, 1951.
- II. C.H.A.A. Mission Statement.
- III. List of Presidents.
- IV. Archbishops and Bishops of Alberta since 1943.
- V. Change of ownership, Catholic hospitals of Alberta.
- VI. Alberta Bishops Pastoral Letter.

APPENDIX I
CATHOLIC HOSPITAL CONFERENCE
OF ALBERTA

September 25, 1951

Reverend Priests of Alberta.

Dear Reverend Father:

Recent developments touching the Catholic Hospitals of Alberta contain within them alarming possibilities. The Provincial Hospitalization Plan, known as the "Dollar-a-Day Plan as presently administered is already causing hardships to Catholic Hospitals.

All hospitals, except municipal hospitals (where hospitalization fees are included in the tax rate) are being indirectly obliged to sell hospitalization to the Workmen's Compensation Board, the Blue Cross, and the Alberta Government at less than cost.

In all municipal hospitals, including city hospitals, the difference will be covered by taxes. None of these taxes will be given to Catholic Hospitals. It is clear that Catholic Hospitals will not be able to pay their bills. The Catholic people will not be able to pay more than other people, so they will go to non-Catholic hospitals and Catholic hospitals will be forced out of existence. The cost of living has increased 27 or more points since the rates were "fixed" in the "Dollar-a-Day" Plan over two years ago. The result is that Lamont Hospital, and all the other hospitals which have the Plan are fast "going in the Red".

If this plan is effective in putting a large number of volunteer hospital beds out of business, it would seem to be a much more destructive plan than that of Saskatchewan or British Columbia. Hospitals of all denominations are treated with equal rights in these two provinces.

Hospitals which adopted the "Dollar-a-Day Plan or were planning to adopt it, did so in good faith, not suspecting such treatment. It is just possible that the department, or at least our government, did not deliberately plan such discrimination, deprivation, and hardship. As this Plan develops, the wealthy receive free maternity care and about 40% of free general care in municipal hospitals, and in order that money may be available for this, (1) Hospitalization must be sold at less than cost; (2) The poor and those of ordinary means are to be economically forced to go to municipal hospitals rather than a hospital of their

choice; (3) All United Church hospitals and Catholic hospitals are to be forced to:

- (a) go into debt
- (b) give cheaper and poorer service
- (c) pay poorer salaries
- (d) or close their doors.

Much more could be written explaining the machinery by which the above is to be accomplished. But it can be explained and discussed much better at an Emergency Meeting of the Catholic Hospital Conference of Alberta. It seems very urgent that the priests of Alberta become acquainted with this serious threat to these religious institutions.

In order that priests may attend, we are choosing a day early in the week - Tuesday, October 16th at the Misericordia Hospital, Nurses' Residence, Edmonton, at 1:30 p.m. If this date is not suitable to you, please suggest one more satisfactory. For those nearer Calgary, a similar Emergency Meeting is planned for Thursday, October 18th at the Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary, at 1:30 p.m.

It is suggested that for the last hour of these meetings, 4:00 p.m., we should all try to have some Catholic laymen - perhaps members of our government present.

At the beginning of the meetings, we should have at least one person from the financial department of the hospital-office present, at least one sister from each hospital.

Many Catholic hospitals which have the "Dollar-a-Day" Plan are rapidly getting into serious financial difficulties. For about two years, they have hoped that our government would see their problems and correct the mistakes or apparent injustices.

However, there are a number of hospitals, which for several different reasons, have not yet felt all the consequences involved in the present financial governmental plan. It is very important that the voting public in this province know all that is involved. Because it is difficult to put all in a letter such as this, we urge you to attend this meeting.

By giving a little less than our government is now giving to municipal Hospital districts, it could, and should, permit hospitals to charge their true costs to the Workmen's Compensation Board, the Blue Cross, the Alberta Government Health Department for maternity, pensioner and general care. In this way the "Dollar-a-Day" Plan would not force the Catholic Hospitals into such a bad financial position.

There is much at stake for the spiritual and temporal welfare of our people. May we urge that you make every effort to come.

Signed: Reverend P. J. O'Reilly - Chaplain
 Sister M. Beatrice - President
 Sister M. Helen - Vice President
 Sister St. Ovide)
 Sister M. Sylvia) Directors
 Sister Maria James)
 Sister M. Consolata - Secretary
 G. Amerongen - Executive Secretary

APPENDIX II
THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA
MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic Health Association of Alberta is a voluntary organization grouping all Catholic Health Care Institutions in Alberta. Its membership also includes Associate and Personal Members. Our Association was founded in 1943 with the name “Catholic Hospital Conference of Alberta”.

PURPOSE

Our mission is to promote Catholic Health Care in Alberta.

OBJECTIVES

Promoting Christian values in the health care sector.

- To assist Catholic health care institutions to clarify and achieve their goals.
- To provide and assist Catholic health care institutions in conducting educational programs emphasizing the Christian dimension in health care.
- To represent the Catholic point of view on health care issues with related organizations.
- To collaborate with the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation and Alberta Hospital Association in dealing with government.
- To cooperate with all faiths in providing holistic health care.
- To participate in the work of the Catholic Health Association of Canada.
- To provide representatives to Board of Directors of various Associations when appropriate.

THE FUTURE

The Church has been entrusted with continuing the healing ministry of Jesus and we as an organization intend to assist our members in fulfilling this mission.

11/24/87

APPENDIX III
THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA
LIST OF PRESIDENTS

1943-44	Sr. Alice Herman	Sisters of Charity of Montreal "Grey Nuns"	Holy Cross Hospital Calgary
1944-45	Sr. Anna Keohane	Sisters of Charity of Evron	St. Joseph's Hospital Vegreville
1945	Sr. St. Tiburce	Sisters of Misericorde	Misericordia Hospital Edmonton
1945-46	Sr. Mary of Bethlehem	Daughters of Wisdom	Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital, Castor
1946-47	Sr. Mary Clarissa	Sisters of St. Martha	Mineral Springs Hospital Banff
1947-49	Sr. M. Demetria	Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul	St. Joseph's Hospital Edmonton
1949-50	Sr. Florence Keegan	Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns)	Edmonton General Hospital, Edmonton
1950-52	Sr. M. Beatrice	Sisters of St. Martha	St. Michael's Hospital Lethbridge
1952-54	Sr. M. Helen	Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke	St. Joseph's Hospital Barrhead
1954-56	Sr. Bernadette Bezaire	Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns)	Edmonton General Hospital, Edmonton
1956	Sr. Marie Laramée	Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns)	Provincial House St. Albert
1956-58	Sr. M Loyola	Sisters of St. Joseph London	St. Joseph's Hospital Galahad
1958-60	Sr. Maria James	Sisters of Charity of Halifax	St. Anne's Hospital Hardisty
1960-62	Sr. Mary Clare	Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul	St. Mary's Hospital Camrose

1962-64	Sr. Helen Lavasseur	Sisters of Charity of Evron	St. Joseph's Hospital Vegreville
1964-65	Sr. Delia Clermont	Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns)	Holy Cross Hospital Calgary
1965-67	Sr. Mary Albert	Sisters of St. Martha	St. Michael's Hospital Lethbridge
1967-68	Sr. John Marie	Sisters of Charity of Halifax	Seton Hospital Jasper
1968-69	Dr. Irial Gogan	Administrator	Holy Cross Hospital Calgary
1969-70	Sr. John Marie	Sisters of Charity of Halifax	Seton Hospital Jasper
1970-71	Dr. Rupert Clare	Medical Director	Edmonton General Hospital, Edmonton
1971-72	Sr. Ellen Martin	Daughters of Jesus (Director, School of Nursing)	Edmonton General Hospital, Edmonton
1972-73	Mr. Charles Gravett	Executive Director	Misericordia Hospital Edmonton
1973-74	Sr. Rose Bekar	Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul	St. Mary's Hospital Camrose
1974-75	Mr. George Hennig	Executive Director	Good Samaritan Society Edmonton
1975-76	Sr. Stanislaus Soluk	Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate	Mary Immaculate Hospital, Mundare
1976-77	Mr. John E. MacDonald	Executive Director	Grey Nuns Regional Centre, Edmonton
1977-78	Sister Aileen Gilles	Sisters of St. Martha	Mineral Springs Centre, Banff

1978-79	Mr. Gordon Pickering	Executive Director	Edmonton General Hospital, Edmonton
1979-81	Fr. Robert Part	Pastor	St. Agnes Parish, Edmonton
1981-83	Mr. Gerry Lang	Executive Director	Misericordia Hospital Edmonton
1983-85	Dr. Leo Klug	Director, Patient Counselling Services	Misericordia Hospital Edmonton
1985-87	Sr. Therese Castonguay	Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns)	Edmonton General Hospital, Edmonton
1987-89	Mr. Robert Robert	Board Chairman	St. Joseph's Hospital Vegreville
1989-90	Bro. Leon Jansen	Director, Health Care Apostolate	Diocese of Calgary
1990-	Mr. F.M. (Bud) Pals	Board Chairman	Our Lady of Rosary Hospital, Castor

APPENDIX IV
ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS OF ALBERTA
SINCE 1943

Jurisdiction	Names	Years	Catholic Health Care Institutions
Calgary	Bishop Patrick Carroll (died 1967)	1935-67	Holy Cross Hospital Calgary 1891-1969
	Bishop Joseph Klein (died 1968)	1967-68	Father Lacombe Nursing Home Midnapore 1910-
	Bishop Paul O'Byrne Bishops' Representative on CHAA Board 1990-	1968-	St. Vincent Hospital Pincher Creek 1924-76 St. Michael's Hospital Lethbridge 1929- Mineral Springs Hospital Banff 1930-
Edmonton	Archbishop John Hugh MacDonald (died 1965)	1938-64	Edmonton General Hospital Edmonton 1895-
	Archbishop Anthony Jordan, OMI (died 1982)	1964-73	Misericordia Hospital Edmonton 1900-
	Archbishop Joseph Neil MacNeil (Bishops' Representative on CHAA Board 1977-90)	1973-	St. Mary's Hospital Trochu 1909-
			Providence Hospital Daysland 1908-73
			St. Joseph's Hospital Vegreville 1910-
			Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital. Castor 1911-
			St. Mary's Hospital Camrose 1924-
			St. John's Hospital Edson 1926-
			St. Joseph's Hospital Edmonton 1927-
St. Anne's Hospital Hardisty 1928-72			

Jurisdiction	Names	Years	Catholic Health Care Institutions
	Archbishop J.N. MacNeil (Cont'd)		St. Joseph's Hospital Galahad 1928-79
			Killam General Hospital Killan 1930-
			Seton Hospital Jasper 1930-71
			St. Paul's Hospital Rimbey 1932-49
			Youville Nursing Home St. Albert 1964-
			Grey Nuns Hospital (under Edmonton General) 1988-
Edmonton Ukrainian Eparchy	Bishop Neil Nicholas Savaryn (died 1986)	1943-85	Mary Immaculate Hospital Mundare 1929-
	Bishop Demetrius Martin Greschuk (died 1990)	1985-90	Mary Immaculate Hospital Willingdon 1935-
	Bishop (TBA)		St. Michael's Extended Care Centre, Edmonton 1983-
Grouard- McLennan	Bishop Ubald Langlois, OMI (died 1953)	1938-53	St. Theresa's Hospital Vermillion 1910-70
	Archbishop Henri Routhier, OMI (Bishops' Representative on CHAA Board 1972-77)(died 1989)	1953-72	St. Martin's Hospital Desmarais 1920-86
	Archbishop Henri Legare, OMI	1972-	Sacred Heart Hospital McLennan 1929-73
			Providence Hospital High Prairie 1937-73
			Holy Cross Hospital Spirit River 1941-71

Jurisdiction	Names	Years	Catholic Health Care Institutions
St. Paul	Bishop Maurice Beaudoux (died 1988)	1948-52	St. Louis Hospital Bonnyville 1919-
	Bishop Philippe Lussier, CSSR (died 1986)	1952-68	Our Lady's Hospital Vilna 1925-70
	Bishop Edouard Gagnon, PSS (now Cardinal)	1969-72	St. Joseph's Hospital Radway 1925-73
	Bishop Raymond Roy	1972-	St. Therese Hospital St. Paul 1926-71 Immaculate Hospital Westlock 1927- St. Joseph's Hospital Barrhead 1934-74 St. Catherine Hospital Lac La Biche 1937-73 St. Gabriel's Hospital Ft. McMurray 1938-65

APPENDIX V
CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP
CATHOLIC HOSPITALS OF ALBERTA SINCE 1943

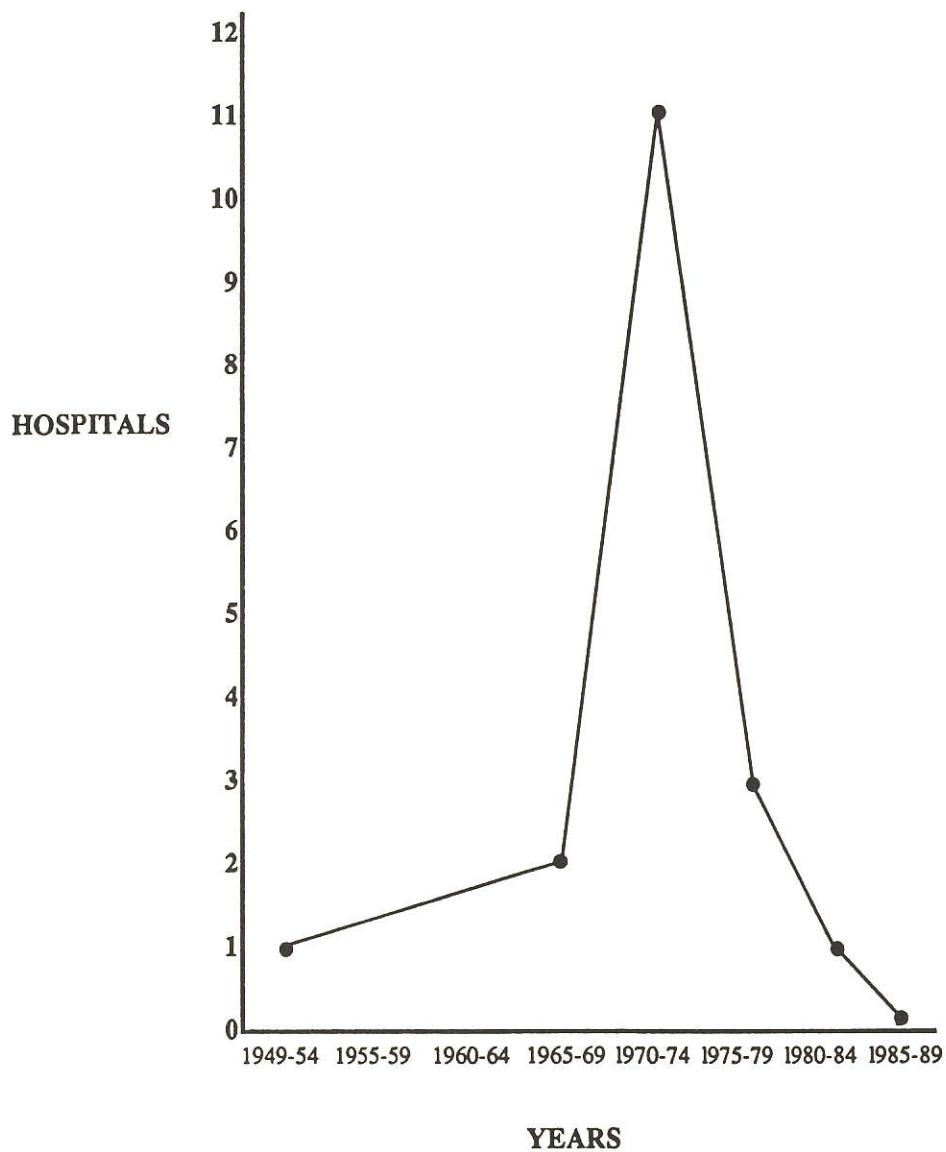
Name of Hospital	Owners	Year Founded	Year Sold
St. Paul's Hospital Rimbey	Owned: Archdiocese of Edmonton Operated: Sisters of St. Joseph London	1932	1949
St. Gabriel's Hospital Ft. McMurray	Grey Nuns of Montreal	May, 1938	March, 1965
Holy Cross Hospital Calgary	Grey Nuns of Montreal	Jan. 31, 1891	Oct. 31, 1969
Our Lady's Hospital Vilna	Sisters of Service	Nov. 29, 1925	June 30, 1970
St. Therese Hospital St. Paul	Grey Nuns of Montreal	Oct. 1, 1926	Jan. 1, 1971
Seton Hospital Jasper	Sisters of Charity of Halifax	Jan., 1930	Apr. 1, 1971
Holy Cross Hospital Spirit River	Grey Nuns of Ottawa	1941	Aug., 1971
St. Anne's Hospital Hardisty	Sisters of Charity of Halifax	1928	Sept. 1, 1972
Providence Hospital Daysland	Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul	Apr. 25, 1909	1973
St. Joseph's Hospital Radway	Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, Saint John, N.B.	1925	1973
Sacred Heart Hospital McLennan	Sisters of Providence of Montreal	Aug. 9, 1929	Aug. 2, 1973
Providence Hospital High Prairie	Sisters of Providence of Montreal	Aug. 20, 1937	Feb. 1, 1973
St. Catherine's Hospital, Lac La Biche	Daughters of Jesus	Nov. 25, 1937	1973
St. Joseph's Hospital Barrhead	Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke	1934	1974

Name of Hospital	Owners	Year Founded	Year Sold
St. Vincent's Hospital, Pincher Creek	Daughters of Jesus	Nov. 19, 1924	Oct. 1976
St. Theresa Hospital Fort Vermilion	Owned by Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Operated by Sisters of Providence of Montreal	Aug. 5, 1910	1978 (Demolished)
St. Joseph's Hospital Galahad	Sisters of St. Joseph of London	Sept. 1928	1979
St. Martin's Hospital Desmarais	Owned by Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Operated by Sisters of Providence of Montreal	1920	1981 (Closed)

NOTE: There are several Catholic hospitals operating for a few years prior to 1943 and therefore were never members of the Conference. Those are not listed above.

APPENDIX Va

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP 1949-1989



ALBERTA CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE:

Paul J. O'Byrne
Bishop of Calgary

Henri Legare, OMI
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan

J.N. MacNeil
Archbishop of Edmonton

Paul Piche, OMI
Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith

Raymond Roy
Bishop of St. Paul

Neil N. Savaryn, OSBM
Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy
of Edmonton

D. Martin Greschuk
Auxiliary Bishop of Ukrainian
Eparchy of Edmonton

The Catholic Health Care Conference of Alberta

- Promotes Christian values in all areas of health care in the province
- Assists Catholic health care institutions in the province to achieve their goals.
- Conducts educational programs, workshops, seminars, etc. dealing with moral and ethical issues in health care.
- Speaks to the various governments on issues and matters relating to Catholic health care in Alberta

SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL

If the Catholic Health Care Conference of Alberta is to achieve its objective, it must have the support of all those who share the Catholic Christian tradition of ministry to the sick, the suffering, and the dying. It seeks this support through membership.

NOTE: Memberships are available to institutions, individuals, and groups (Parish, Catholic Women's League, and Knights of Columbus Councils) and other such bodies.

Information and speakers are available to groups.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Catholic Health Care Conference of Alberta
#176, 14315 - 118 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5L 4S6
Phone: (403) 451-5987

CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE FACILITIES IN ALBERTA

A STATEMENT OF
THE BISHOPS OF
ALBERTA

1983

To the Catholic Faithful of Alberta: Peace be with you!

One of the missionary tasks entrusted to the Church is to provide the sick and the suffering with loving care and healing, in the spirit of the Lord. One way of doing this is through the provision and maintenance of Catholic health care facilities, such as hospitals and nursing homes. As shepherds of the local church, it is our duty to share with you some special concerns we have about Catholic health care.

THE PAST

Religious Congregations

Voluntary Catholic health care institutions, serving the sick, the suffering and the dying have always been an integral part of the church in Alberta. Such facilities have been largely identified with religious communities of Sisters, who have brought the hope and love of Christ to countless numbers of people of all faiths, in many communities in the province. The Sisters, with the highest sense of dedication, built and maintained their hospitals through periods of economic depression and of prosperity.

Changes

They earned the respect of all with whom they came in contact. In recent years, we have seen a steady decline in the number of Sisters available to carry out this important Christian ministry. Not only have vocations to the religious communities declined, but, in addition, many new needs have arisen in the mission of the Church, which have placed heavy demands on those communities.

THE PRESENT

A Decline in Facilities

There are only 17 Catholic hospitals and nursing homes serving this vast province. The few religious

communities of sisters, which remain in this work, increasingly face the question: to whom do we pass the torch?

A Response - Sharing Responsibilities

How can the Church continue, in the name of Christ, to provide the citizens of Alberta with Catholic health care institutions? Clearly, the only realistic response is a joint response on the part of the total Church in Alberta. The laity, more than ever before, must share the responsibility for this ministry of the Church with the religious communities. You must ask yourselves: what more can we do to give future citizens the same privileges we enjoy today, the option of choosing health care in Catholic facilities for Catholics, but Catholic facilities as an option for all citizens, and Catholic facilities as a special way of proclaiming the Good News. The religious communities will always want to be involved in this ministry, but they see the nature and degree of their involvement changing.

Effects of Decline

We are aware of the effects the decline in the number of Catholic health care institutions has had on many communities in Alberta. We sense a concern on the part of all citizens at this decline. There is a fear that the aspects of volunteerism, and the Christian dimension of health care in the operation of these institutions are in danger of disappearing.

Catholic Caring

One thing we can all do is answer for ourselves the question: how important are Catholic health care facilities to me? Perhaps we have never considered the matter before. Perhaps we have taken such things for granted, or are we content with secular facilities which offer the same medical expertise. Perhaps we have failed to fully appreciate that there is something very special about Catholic health care. Such care is concerned about the total person - mind, body, heart and spirit. Pope

John Paul II has pointed out that such care stresses the importance of placing ethics over technology, the person over things, and the spirit over matter. Catholic health care is provided by people of faith, who are urged on by the compassionate love of Christ. They see such care as an essential part of the Church's witness to the Risen Christ, the Living Lord.

THE FUTURE

A Challenge

We believe that Catholic health care in Alberta, which has a long tradition of serving God through service to the sick and suffering, has become seriously weakened. Today, more than ever, there is a need for Judeo-Christian values to be expressed in health care to witness to the dignity of human life and to God's love in the healing process. We ask that all Catholics become familiar with the issues involved, pray for guidance and actively support the maintenance and promotion of Catholic health care facilities. We are confident that the religious communities will continue their service to the people of Alberta in the health care field. As all members of the Church become more involved in the healing ministry, the role of some of these religious communities, in the onerous task of ownership of facilities, may change. New forms of partnership are evolving to reflect changing circumstances.

Positive Action

We urge you to support the Catholic Health Care Conference of Alberta, which represents and speaks for the Catholic health care institutions of the province and for all those interested in their survival.

It is our fervent prayer that God will give us all a deeper understanding of the mission of the church in serving the sick and the suffering and that we will respond in love and compassion.

The Alberta Catholic Bishops' Conference



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