

# The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada Diocesan Report

**Diocese : Quebec**

**Year: 2007**

## **Description of the Diocese**

The Diocese of Quebec is the second oldest in the Canadian Church. It was founded in 1793. It has a geographic area of 720,000 square kilometers.

Number on Parish rolls-	7,600
Parishes-	52
Congregations-	97
Parish Clergy-	22
Chaplains and Special Ministries-	3
Vocational Deacons-	9
Lay Incumbents-	4
Retired Clergy-	16
Clergy on Leave-	9
Lay Readers-	70

The Diocese of Quebec is part of the Council of the North and therefore conforms with the Salary and Benefits scale of the Council for Stipendiary Clergy.

There are five Deaneries and Archdeaconries. One is a non-geographic deanery for Francophone Ministry with an Archdeacon, a Rural Dean and three Francophone clergy.

## **Diocesan Staff**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Contact Information</i>
Most Rev. Bruce Stavert	Archbishop	archbishop@quebec.anglican.ca
Ms. Sherry Knox	Administrative Assistant	synodoffice@quebec.anglican.ca
Mr. James Sweeny	Registrar / Archivist	registrar@quebec.anglican.ca
Vacant	Treasurer	treasurer@quebec.anglican.ca
Ms. Marie-Sol Gaudreau	Bookkeeper	bookkeeper@quebec.anglican.ca

## **Good News Stories / Highlights / Initiatives**

### *1) Sexuality Study*

Following the request of the Archbishop in his 2005 Charge to Synod a group of 14 people came together in 2006-7 to coordinate a study and diocesan conversation about issues of human sexuality,

homosexuality and the blessing of same sex unions. This study was conducted to some extent regionally and for the first time involved fairly wide participation and input from groups and individuals across the diocese. A final report was sent from the diocese to be a part of the information received by the Council of General Synod prior to General Synod.

## *2) Strategic Planning*

Prompted in part by the resignation of the diocesan treasurer and the need to look at some new governance models for the diocese we embarked on developing a new Strategic Plan for the diocese. This work was carried on from December through to early summer with the able assistance of an outside facilitator. We achieved a new strategic plan with four headings of Mission, Leadership, Stewardship and Human Sexuality, with detailed both short term and longer term activity. There was a high level of energy in this work which will now need to be adopted by our diocesan Synod and the Church Society.

## *3) Coadjutor Bishop*

In discussing governance issues for the diocese it was determined that an executive assistant was needed for the Bishop. Since the Archbishop is to retire in the Spring of 2009 it was decided that a wise transition strategy would be the election of a coadjutor Bishop for a year. That request from the Archbishop was accepted by the Diocesan Council and the election will take place on October 12, 2007.

## *4) Quebec Lodge Camp*

An issue which has over the last couple of years been controversial and divisive is the possible sale of Camp Quebec Lodge in the Eastern Townships. In April of this year we were able to reach a happy compromise with the decision to partition the large property and sell a substantial portion on the market and allow those who wish to continue a camp in the area to purchase the portion which has always been the camp including the waterfront (beach). Negotiations about details of the partition are on-going though it is hoped to be able to sell this autumn.

## *5) Missioner*

The work of the Archbishop's Missioner described in our last report (to Synod 2006) has been developing and has been of great assistance to the Archbishop and others.

## **Challenges / Issues**

1) In the autumn of 2006 our diocesan Treasurer resigned. Shortly after his resignation was accepted some "substantial accounting irregularities" were discovered to have taken place over a three year period. We had to immediately appoint an interim treasurer. This has made for a very complicated year financially and made the annual audit very complicated. Fortunately, we had in place a very fine bookkeeper who was able to keep the day to day work on track as well as the important work

of liaison with parishes. It is hoped to have a new Treasurer appointed by Church Society and Synod by the time of our biennial Synod in October 2007.

2) The matter of property insurance continues to be a matter of considerable concern. In the summer of 2006 we did a comprehensive evaluation of all the properties in the diocese - approximately 190 or more buildings which the diocese is responsible for insuring including churches, halls and rectories. Costs of insurance continue to rise and parishes are having to adjust to increasingly complicated requirements from Ecclesiastical Insurance.

### **Opportunities / Suggestions for Sharing with Other Dioceses**

1) In May of 2007 the Bishop of Montreal and Archbishop Stavert signed an entente whereby the Montreal Diocesan Theological College will provide some field courses and lay training within the Diocese of Quebec.

2) The Diocese of Quebec and the Diocese of Montreal share a joint Blue Cross extended health insurance coverage to the advantage of lower cost and lighter administration burden.

3) The Diocese of Quebec continues to be able to provide experience and resources for translation of liturgies and documents. We have translations into French of most Episcopal licenses, certificates, ceremonies etc.