



# Catholic Health Association of Ontario

---

## Association Catholique de la Santé de l'Ontario

### Board Chair/CEO December 2024 report

Thank you to everyone for your on-going support and efforts as we live out the values of compassion, dignity, and respect — inspired by the healing ministry of Jesus. We are pleased to provide you with this update on recent activities in several areas and special moments of reflection as we worked to advance the value of Catholic health care in our rapidly changing political and cultural realities. We are pleased to provide a summary of our efforts to provide a strong, unified voice for our members.

#### **Strategic Planning**

Advancing the Association's Strategic Plan was the focus of Board planning retreat held in December 2024. The Governance Committee and its chair, David Ceglie and Board Chair, Bill Marra, continue to regularly monitor the progress being made on behalf of the Board. During the retreat, Board members were engaged in assessing the continued relevance of the current strategic plan given the changes in the health care environment and changes in provincial government legislation and structures. CHAO's mission, vision values and strategic pillars (Unify, Advance, Serve) continue to guide the organization. The key areas of strategic focus for CHAO in the upcoming year based on the 2022-2025 strategic framework are planned to focus on:

#### **Unify**

The CHAO and Ontario Catholic Sponsors continue to enhance the role of CHAO as Secretariat and have initiated several areas of common interest to develop a unified voice. Strategic focus for 2025 include:

- Building on Catholic identity work underway, conduct advocacy and awareness-building on the value of Catholic Healthcare to the province and to local communities, and on health equity and social justice.
- Foster dialogue, collaboration and alignment among the Sponsors of Ontario and CHAC, including strengthening awareness of Catholic healthcare and its intentionality of addressing unmet need across the continuum of care in serving the marginalized and vulnerable. among the sponsors in Ontario.

#### **Advance**

CHAO continues its extensive government relations outreach program. The goal of this initiative is to ensure Ontario's politicians and government decision makers are aware of the mission and values of CHAO's membership, the important role Catholic



# Catholic Health Association of Ontario

---

## Association Catholique de la Santé de l'Ontario

health care plays in the province and to advance CHAO's areas of strategic focus with a particular emphasis on health equity, community supportive housing, palliative care, mental health, and addiction services. Our seed funding grant program was successful, identifying 4 viable supportive housing projects. We anticipate awarding an additional 4 seed funding grants in 2025. Strategic priorities include:

- Advance Catholic health values by encouraging provincial policy makers and local partners to prioritize health equity and social determinants of health through the role and impact of Catholic health, including highlighting experience and impact of member organizations across the continuum of care. Ensure that our voice is present and heard in major decision bodies.
- Facilitate the growth of Catholic works (and partnerships) in serving the most vulnerable, including supportive housing, mental health and addictions, indigenous care, and end of life care.

### Serve

CHAO will be seen as an enabler and knowledge centre to enhance the ability of our membership to reform the Ontario health care system actively and ethically. Strategic priorities include:

- Continue to gather and share relevant information and tools for members, including implications of ongoing system integration.
- Further advance communities of practice, including a community of practice on Catholic healthcare intentionality and its positive influence on system transformation (building on HHR, supportive housing and system transformation influencers communities of practice).

This year's annual convention was held virtually on October 17, 2024. The theme "Catholic Health Care: Our Journey to Enhance Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging" and associated speakers were well received. Given Board and member feedback the CHAO 2025 Annual Conference will be **in person** and is planned for Thursday October 16, 2025. Please hold the date as further information will be forthcoming as several locations are currently under consideration.



Catholic Health Association of Ontario  
Association Catholique de la Santé de l'Ontario

**Organizational Performance**

The Association continues to operate in a fiscally responsible fashion, undertaking its traditional responsibilities within a lean operational structure. Board policies are monitored regularly in addition to the progression of the organization's strategic plan.

Thank you to all CHAO members for your continued moral and financial support and thank you to the members of the CHAO Board who so freely and willingly give of their time and counsel to benefit Catholic health care in Ontario as we advance the mission of Catholic health care.

Happy Holidays to all and those we serve.



Ron Noble  
President and CEO



Bill Marra  
Board Chair