



Le conseil catholique procède à l'achat de l'école publique Queenswood



par **Kristina Brazeau**

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Le Conseil des écoles catholiques de langue française du Centre-Est (CÉCLFCE) a procédé à l'achat de l'ancienne école publique Queenswood récemment au coût de 3,6 millions \$. Selon l'administrateur de l'Orléans-Cumberland Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB), John Shea, la propriété a été vendue le 15 juillet.

Le bâtiment était un surplus pour le conseil scolaire anglophone. L'établissement scolaire a été fermé et les élèves ont été transférés dans l'école avoisinante Dunning-Foubert.

Le conseil catholique compte transférer les élèves de l'école élémentaire La Source à l'ancienne école Queenswood à temps pour la rentrée des classes cet automne. L'école sera nommée École d'enseignement personnalisée La Source.

Depuis 2003, les élèves de La Source fréquentent l'ancienne école des Villageois, qui a toutefois excédé sa durée de vie selon un rapport commandé par le conseil catholique.

Quelque 253 élèves déménageront dans les nouveaux locaux cet automne.

«Les familles de l'école La Source attendent ce moment depuis longtemps, indique la présidente du conseil, Diane Doré. Nous sommes heureux d'avoir trouvé une solution pour offrir un environnement qui est plus propice à l'apprentissage de leurs enfants.»

Le conseil catholique a reçu un financement de 4,5 millions \$ de la part du ministère de l'Éducation pour l'achat de l'établissement.

Une partie du financement servira à rénover l'établissement dont remplacer le plancher et le système d'intercom, peindre ainsi qu'améliorer le laboratoire informatique.

L'établissement de l'école La Source actuel devrait rester vacant jusqu'à ce que le conseil décide de son sort. Avec Patricia Lonergan.

Catholic schools prepared for H1N1 outbreak

Other three Ottawa boards still working on pandemic plans for September

BY MOHAMMED ADAM, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN JULY 23, 2009

As the World Health Organization warns of a resurgence of the H1N1 swine flu in the fall, only one Ottawa school board has a comprehensive pandemic plan to deal with a possible outbreak during the new school year.

Four months after the H1N1 flu virus first emerged in Mexico, the Ottawa Catholic School Board is the only one of the four boards with a detailed plan for everything from handling sick students to school evacuation and relocation as well as continuity of education. The other three, including the public Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, seem to be at different stages of their pandemic planning, working with Ottawa's public-health department to come up with a plan for September when schools reopen. The four school boards have a student population of more than 120,000. The OCDSB alone has more than 72,000 students in 150 schools.

Last month, when the Citizen asked the boards for their pandemic plans, all their spokespeople said they didn't have any, but would use the city's plan -- which itself says that each school board should have a plan of its own.

It turns out the Ottawa Catholic School Board has a plan and, on request, sent it to the Citizen.

But asked repeatedly whether they now have plans to deal with the possible crisis to come, spokespeople for the OCDSB and the Eastern Ontario French Language Public School Board sent similar e-mail statements to the Citizen.

"The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board continues to work in collaboration with Ottawa Public Health and other area school districts with respect to H1N1 strategies," spokeswoman Sharlene Hunter wrote. "We are monitoring the situation in order to ensure that we are prepared when students return to school on September 1."

Asked whether that meant the board doesn't now have a plan but is working on one, Hunter e-mailed back: "We are continuing to develop our plan with the assistance of the Public Health Unit and in collaboration with the other district boards of education."

The e-mail from Andrée Myette, communications co-ordinator of the Eastern Ontario French public board, read: "The Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario ... continues to work closely with Ottawa Public Health as well as the three other Ottawa-area school boards with respect to the H1N1 Influenza Pandemic Plan. We are continuing our monitoring of the situation in order to ensure that we

are well prepared when our students return to school on Aug. 26, 2009."

She reiterated the statement when asked to clarify it.

A spokeswoman for the French Catholic Board said the board "had a document which was never used and is now being updated in the light of the current situation." Communications officer Céline Bourbonnais said in an

e-mail that the plan will be distributed to schools next month. Meanwhile, a training session for janitors will be held to review the best way to "clean and disinfect" schools to prevent the spread of the virus. An emergency-response committee is in place and "ready to meet as needed," and the board will work with Ottawa Public Health, she said.

The City of Ottawa's pandemic plan specifically asks individual organizations and institutions like school boards to draw up their own complementary plans so they know exactly how to handle their employees or students in an emergency.

Every organization has its own particular quirks and problems, and responses to the pandemic may vary. School boards, which have large numbers of small children under their care, may face different challenges than, say, a federal government department. And with the H1N1 virus seeming to affect the younger population more than other flu viruses, experts say school authorities need to get ahead of the problem.

Julian Hanlon, deputy director of the English Catholic school board, says that is exactly what his board is doing. Hanlon says the board's plan lays out in great detail what actions board officials will take during a pandemic, who is responsible for what, and what to do if a school has to be closed, evacuated or relocated. It has a continuity plan that spells out responsibilities, including who will step in for whom in case of illness.

The plan demands each school have a crisis-response plan with clear lines of authority and responsibilities, and alternate evacuation locations.

"Each principal shall list the two closest schools that may be used as an alternate location for emergency evacuation during a partial or complete closure of a school due to insufficient supervisory and/or operational personnel at the school," the plan says.

Because up to one in three people may become ill enough to be quarantined or miss work during a severe pandemic, the plan also lays out a continuity plan for governing the board, maintaining a board headquarters and controlling finances.

While a solid foundation is firmly in place, Hanlon says, discussions with Ottawa public-health officials are continuing in order to adapt to what might be a fast-changing situation. He said a meeting between

the health department and the school boards was held in June to draw up a strategy for summer school and camps, and another will be held next month to receive final directions for September.

Hanlon hopes that one of the things that would be sorted out at next month's meeting is whether schools open or remain closed. The World Health Organization has mooted the idea of school closings to stem the spread of the virus, but Hanlon said senior public-health officials in Canada have panned the idea.

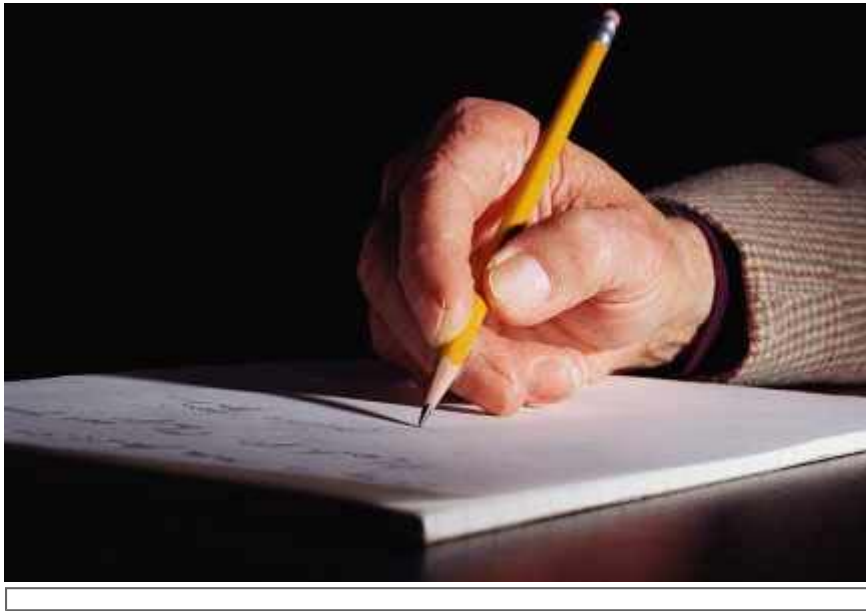
"We have a definite plan in place and will convene in August and take lead from Public Health on where we go," he said.

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À trop évaluer les élèves, on les inciterait à tricher



Lauren La Rose

La Presse Canadienne
Toronto

Un expert dit avoir la solution pour prévenir la tricherie dans les classes. Il suffit de mettre plus d'accent sur les notions à apprendre, et moins sur l'évaluation de l'élève.

Le professeur de psychologie éducationnelle à l'université de l'Ohio, Eric Anderman, a fait part de ses découvertes, samedi, lors d'une réunion de spécialistes à Toronto. Selon lui, l'étendue de la tricherie s'explique en grande partie par l'emphase mis sur l'évaluation des élèves, ce qui cause à ceux-ci beaucoup d'anxiété et de stress.

L'ancien professeur de niveau primaire a fait valoir que des recherches qu'il a menées et que certains de ses collègues ont réalisées montrent que si les professeurs mettent l'accent sur «l'apprentissage pour l'apprentissage» et impliquent les enfants dans des projets de longue haleine, ceux-ci vont beaucoup mieux assimiler les connaissances.

M. Anderman a soutenu qu'il était clair que des étudiants ayant l'impression que l'objectif du professeur est véritablement de leur apprendre des notions seront beaucoup moins tentés de tricher.

«Ils vont garder l'intérêt et la motivation pour l'apprentissage des notions, et réussiront tout de même bien l'évaluation, mais ils seront beaucoup moins stressés», a-t-il assuré.

Un porte-parole de la fédération des enseignants de la Saskatchewan a affirmé que les commentaires de M. Anderman rejoignent les préoccupations des enseignants de la province, plusieurs d'entre eux estimant aussi qu'un système trop axé sur l'évaluation encourageait l'élève à utiliser des tactiques dont il n'aurait pas fait usage autrement.

Jonathan Tegtmeyer, de l'association des enseignants de l'Alberta, s'est aussi dit d'accord avec les conclusions de M. Anderman.

Plus tôt cette année, le gouvernement albertain a adopté une motion visant à revoir les examens uniformisés pour les élèves de troisième secondaire. La motion appelle à l'abandon de ces tests, pour les remplacer par des moyens d'évaluation moins formels.

Le président de la fédération des enseignants de niveau secondaire de l'Ontario, Ken Coran, a dit croire en l'idée d'éduquer des individus plutôt que de miser sur des examens uniformisés.

M. Coran a toutefois fait valoir la nécessité de préparer les jeunes à la réalité d'un monde axé sur la concurrence, que ce soit pour être admis dans certains programmes universitaires ou pour se tailler une place sur le marché du travail.

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Grippe H1N1: faut-il craindre la rentrée scolaire?



Photo: AFP



Pascale Breton et
Louise Leduc
La Presse

Pendant que l'Europe se demande si des écoles devraient fermer leurs portes cet automne pour limiter la propagation de la grippe A (H1N1), la rentrée scolaire devrait avoir lieu comme prévu à la fin du mois au Québec.

Pour l'instant, il n'est pas question de fermer les écoles, affirme le directeur national de la santé publique, le Dr Alain Poirier.

«Selon ce qu'on sait du virus, il y aura probablement plus de désavantages à fermer les écoles et les garderies.»

L'inquiétude vient du fait que le virus se propage facilement chez les jeunes. Mais il semble aussi moins virulent dans cette catégorie de la population. Fermer les écoles n'est pas la solution, poursuit le Dr Poirier.

«Est-ce que ce sont les parents qui vont devoir s'occuper des enfants et délaisséer le travail? Est-ce que ces enfants seront confinés à la maison? La réponse est non. Ces enfants vont sortir, iront au cinéma, au centre commercial, vont se retrouver en groupe et transmettre le virus.»

Le Ministère compte plutôt sur la collaboration des écoles et des parents pour recenser les cas de grippe et rappeler les règles d'hygiène comme le lavage des mains.

C'est d'ailleurs la politique qui a été appliquée en avril, lorsque les premiers cas de grippe A(H1N1) ont été signalés au Québec. Des élèves ont été contaminés au collège Charlemagne, à l'école primaire de Dollard-des-Ormeaux et au collège Saint-Bernard, à Drummondville.

Les écoles n'ont pas fermé leurs portes. Seul l'établissement de Drummondville a fermé sa section primaire pendant une journée, le temps de procéder à une désinfection.

Comme les municipalités, les hôpitaux et plusieurs entreprises, les écoles disposent d'un plan de préparation à une pandémie depuis 2006.

«Si une forte propagation de personne à personne devait survenir, des établissements d'enseignement pourraient être exceptionnellement fermés», peut-on lire dans ce plan aux lignes plutôt générales.

Une mise à jour du plan est en cours et sera prête cet automne, précise le porte-parole du ministère de l'Éducation, des Loisirs et du Sport, Pierre Noël. Mais rien n'indique pour le moment que les recommandations vont changer.

«La rentrée aura lieu comme prévu, le 27 août, indique d'ailleurs Nathalie Roberge, porte-parole de la Commission scolaire de Montréal. Nous avons un comité de pandémie en place et nous sommes toujours en lien avec les autorités de la santé publique pour évaluer la situation.»

Plutôt que la fermeture systématique des écoles, le plan québécois préconise de maintenir le plus possible les services en place, tant les services éducatifs, administratifs que de garde.

Si un trop grand nombre de travailleurs manquent à l'appel pour cause de maladie, les services essentiels devront être maintenus. Même grippées, certaines personnes pourraient devoir travailler, précise le plan.

De leur côté, les syndicats suivent également la situation de près. «Pour le moment, nous n'envisageons pas d'action particulière à la rentrée, sinon de surveiller les actions ministérielles s'il en est», indique Claude Girard, porte-parole de la Centrale des syndicats du Québec, qui représente la majorité des enseignants.

Situation différente en Europe

La situation est fort différente de l'autre côté de l'océan. La propagation de la grippe A(H1N1) préoccupe les autorités au point où certains pays songent à fermer des écoles.

L'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) a récemment indiqué que des pays pourraient retarder la rentrée scolaire. Il revient à chaque gouvernement d'évaluer la situation qui lui est propre, selon l'ampleur de la pandémie, a signalé en entrevue Ashaluck Bhatiasave, porte-parole de l'OMS.

En France, par exemple, les autorités pourraient hausser le degré d'alerte à 6 en septembre, ce qui pourrait entraîner des fermetures d'école.

Jusqu'à maintenant, le Québec a adopté une stratégie bien différente de celle des autres pays en ne confinant pas les personnes malades, note le Dr Karl Weiss, microbiologiste et infectiologue à l'hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont.

«Il faut faire attention à la façon dont on est perçu. Le Canada est considéré, de l'extérieur, comme une zone chaude. Si ça se mettait à dérapier, ce serait problématique», croit le Dr Weiss, qui cite notamment le risque que des citoyens canadiens soient mis en quarantaine à l'étranger.

D'ailleurs, il considère que la stratégie de communication mise en place par les autorités canadiennes et québécoises tend à banaliser la maladie. «Je tiens à le souligner. Ce n'est pas une maladie bénigne.»

Au printemps, le Mexique avait été le premier pays touché par la grippe A(H1N1). Il a aussi été le premier à confiner la population. Pendant une semaine, écoles, universités, garderies, gyms et restaurants ont fermé leurs portes pour endiguer la propagation du virus.

Par la suite, les États-Unis ont à leur tour fermé 533 écoles, obligeant plus de 330 000 élèves à faire l'école buissonnière. Le Japon a, pour sa part, fermé 4400 écoles à la mi-mai.

'We're the best-kept secret in town'

Chantal Beauvais, the university's first female boss, says her first order of business is to raise the school's profile, writes Jennifer Green.

BY JENNIFER GREEN, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN AUGUST 10, 2009



Meet the New Rector of Saint Paul University: Chantal Beauvais, the new rector of Saint Paul University, had to clear a few hurdles before she assumed her post. First, the university had to approve her appointment. Then, the area Oblates had to agree. The proposal was forwarded to the order's overall authority in Rome. Meanwhile, Archbishop Terrence Prendergast had to submit her name to the Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education.

Photograph by: Jean Levac, the Ottawa Citizen, The Ottawa Citizen

For the first time in its history, Saint Paul University has a woman as its leader, a laywoman at that.

There's a Saint Paul University in Ottawa, you ask? Chantal Beauvais's first task is to get the school on the city's radar. Now, she says, "We're the best-kept secret in town.

"Very few people -- maybe three per cent -- even know it exists. Those who know about it think it's where we train priests."

The other misconception is that the 750 students and 60 or so professors speak only French. In fact, a slight majority are English-speaking, and virtually all the classes are offered in both languages.

The religious order of Oblates began the Main Street school in 1965 to house ecclesiastic programs dropped by the increasingly secular University of Ottawa. (The Oblates founded the larger school in the 19th century, but no longer wanted to manage it.) Until Beauvais's appointment, the university was

always run by an Oblate.

Today, Saint Paul's canon-law program and library holdings are among the best in the world. It also offers programs in Anglican studies and Eastern Christian studies.

In the last decade or so, the school has also been trying to spruce up its programs. For instance, pastoral studies gave "this idea of sheep running in the field," says Beauvais. So the program was reworked and renamed spirituality and counselling. "Really, it is a psychotherapy program anchored in the belief that spirituality is a key factor in their healing.

"A graduate from here will have gained skills that will allow them to listen to others, feel their perspective ... untie knots that prevent people from entering dialogue."

Saint Paul was established in the midst of Vatican II, which promised to loosen the reins of modern Catholicism.

"There was this extraordinary missionary zeal, a new approach, and a respect for other cultures," she says. "We have been continuing what started in the 1960s."

"The spirituality of Vatican II is very much in sync with the spirituality of the Oblates themselves. Some of the Oblates were involved in the council. There were theologians who were counselling cardinals in Rome."

These days, under the more conservative pontificates of the late Pope John Paul II, and his successor, Pope Benedict, some see Saint Paul as swimming against the current.

It didn't help that, in 1992, Rome investigated Professor André Guindon for his book on sexual ethics. The priest died the next year at the age of 60 before the case could be resolved.

As one of just a handful of pontifical universities in Canada, Saint Paul is answerable directly to Rome, especially when it comes to choosing a rector, as the head of the school is called.

First, the university had to approve her appointment. Then the area Oblates had to agree. The proposal was forwarded to the order's overall authority in Rome. Meanwhile, Archbishop Terrence Prendergast had to submit her name to the Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education. It was no mere rubber-stamping.

"I had to submit a vision document (describing her plans for the school) and also answer some questions that came back because it was the first time a layperson had taken charge. 'How are you going to be maintaining the relationship with ecclesial community? How will you keep the Oblates part of the decision-making?' "

Beauvais was born in Rouyn-Noranda, Que., the eldest of three children.

As a teen, she joined the cadets, where she picked up military drumming.

"At 14, they sent me to (Camp) Borden for six weeks. And they said, 'OK, Beauvais what can you do?' Well, you can't read music, we'll give you a drum'."

She had a natural talent for rhythm and ended up teaching drums to other kids.

Although both parents were Catholic, each handled their faith very differently. Her father went to church every week without fail.

Her mother was "a free spirit, and had a lot to criticize about the church." She eventually returned through the charismatic movement, Catholic worship with more emotion and spirit. "She found healing there, it really helped her out."

Beauvais began her education at the Loyalist College of Applied Arts and Technology, and worked for a while for Noranda Mines.

When she was about 25, she joined the Sisters of Charity as a novitiate, taking temporary vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience. "Obedience -- that I found a little bit more difficult. I had lived by myself, worked. It was a cultural shift."

So she left the sisters, but began studying philosophy at the Dominican College, another, even smaller Catholic university in Ottawa.

There she met Louis Perron, today her husband of 15 years.

"Actually, I didn't think I would marry. I thought maybe in the future, I might join another religious community ... so I didn't have in mind to find a husband.

"We found that had a lot in common. Eventually this ... project ... emerged. We share the same values and I think that's a necessary for a community life such as marriage."

There is a catch though. Perron teaches in the philosophy department at Saint Paul.

"Obviously there are precautions we must take now. There's a conflict of interest that is addressed in my contract. I will not be involved in any decision-making concerning him."

In any event, "he is happy for me ... and he believes in me."

The mission of the sisters still holds her.

"These women I so admire. They were so dedicated to their work.

"I think that their charisma, their fire, their inspiration is something that must continue to live on.

"I see myself as a bearer of these traditions -- I'm getting emotional about this," she said, touching the corner of her eye.

"I think people who come and study here probably have that in them as well. They want a place where that can be nourished and validated and empowered.

"I believe in the kingdom of God. This idea for me is very compelling, that Jesus came and taught us how to be good human beings. Evil is not the end of the world and you can do something about it.

"And for me that am something I wake up with every morning."

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Handwashing is a vital tool to fight diseases

THE OTTAWA CITIZEN AUGUST 10, 2009



With the public's concern about the H1N1 flu, the basic hygiene of washing hands or wearing a face mask are gaining wider acceptance, writes Katy Wright. These sanitation lessons are being taught in foreign countries.

Photograph by: Jean Levac, The Ottawa Citizen, The Ottawa Citizen

Re: Masks, handwashing slow spread of flu, Aug. 4.

What is so interesting to me about this news article on handwashing and facemasks slowing the spread of the H1N1 flu is that the lessons of basic hygiene are "in" again for the public to protect themselves. The basic lesson of washing hands with soap is being taught and retaught around the world.

Washing hands with soap isn't just important to stop the spread of H1N1, it's also the most cost-effective intervention that could save children's lives.

Diarrheal diseases and pneumonia kill almost 3.5 million children every year. According to UNICEF, handwashing could cut those numbers by 30 to 44 per cent. Yet the Canada International Development Agency (CIDA) spends very little on sanitation issues like personal handwashing -- an estimated 10 per cent of \$70 million annually spent on broader water and sanitation issues.

In March, Results Canada, the organization I work for, took three Canadian MPs to Bangladesh to see how people in many rural villages and small communities are using simple, cost-effective solutions in

the fight against tuberculosis. We saw how Canadian and international funds were helping people.

Our visit happened just before the monsoons when hospitals and communities were bracing for what comes with the rains -- diarrhea season.

I saw community health volunteers and doctors in hospitals getting ready for it, engaging in educating people and repeating the basic messages about how important handwashing is to stop the spread of diseases like pneumonia, to prevent diarrhea, reduce malnutrition and save lives.

Back home, at my workplace, handwashing signs have gone up recently. Antibacterial sanitizer pumps are now everywhere in offices and public places, not just hospitals and doctors' offices.

Because basic handwashing is such an important tool in fighting the No. 1 killer of kids and infectious diseases like H1N1, let's hope CIDA's spending on basic sanitation and hygiene goes up as quick as those handwashing signs and sanitizer pumps have.

Katy Wright,

Ottawa

Project manager,

ACTION

(Advocacy to Control TB Internationally),

Results Canada

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