

Meet the CPCO Executive Council for 2006 – 2007



Don Rait
CPCO President

Don is tremendously excited at the opportunity to represent and serve the members of CPCO as president this year. A principal with the Simcoe-Muskoka Catholic District School Board for the past 13 years, he leaves his school, Father F. X. O'Reilly Catholic School in Tottenham, to take up his role as president of CPCO. Don intends to continue to use FX's motto, "Growing in self for the service of others" as his touchstone for the coming year.

Don has been on the CPCO Executive for the past five years as elementary councillor, vice-president and president-elect. He has served as an executive liaison to the Professional Development and the Issues in Catholic Education committees. With all partners in education, Don looks forward to continuing the task of reinforcing the bonds that tie us together. He believes that it is critical for CPCO to promote and demonstrate the unique value of Catholic education.

Don looks forward to meeting and speaking to as many members as he can during this coming year. By listening to what each member in every board values and is concerned about, he wants to ensure that CPCO continues to respond to its grassroots. He believes that united, we will create a beautiful symphony where each note will build a chord of harmony, every beat coming from our heart.



Lou Rocha
CPCO Executive Director

Lou Rocha is entering his seventh year as the executive director of CPCO. He is seconded from the Toronto Catholic District School Board, where he last served as elementary principal for 11 years. This is his 34th year in Catholic education. Together with the office staff, Lou supports the work of the Executive Council, seven CPCO committees and the Council of District Representatives. Lou has also worked with other provincial organizations including the Institute for Catholic Education, the Ministry of Education, the Ontario College of Teachers, the Catholic Curriculum Corporation and the Ontario Teachers' Federation. Lou is the first contact for members requiring professional assistance and he collaborates extensively with STERLON to provide effective legal support for members. He also serves on the Joint Benefits Committee that administers LTD and other benefit programs for members.

Lou is committed to advancing CPCO's technological initiatives in order to enhance communications, consultation and collaboration among CPCO members. He implemented the use of SurveyMonkey for the electronic surveys that have become the basis for issues management. He pioneered the electronic newsletter system that has been used to keep members abreast of services, issues and job opportunities, and created the conceptual design for the Contract Manager website for terms and conditions of employment. In the coming year, CPCO will implement new online learning technologies through a partnership with Adobe Canada using the Breeze software platform. Lou deeply values the participation of members in the business of the organization and he enjoys every opportunity to dialogue with members during committee meetings, regional events, the annual conference and association visits.

During 2006-2007, Lou sees a need to focus on advocacy and government relations. He believes that the needs of current and future CPCO members must be addressed in the next 12 months leading to the provincial election in October 2007. He also sees the need to focus on the threats to Catholic education that may appear in the course of the election campaign. The coming year will also provide the opportunity for CPCO to engage its members in developing a new strategic plan for 2007-2011.



Paul Carr
Past-President

Paul returns to his position as principal with the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board after his year in Toronto as president of CPCO. Paul has been a principal for the past 12 years at the junior, senior-elementary and secondary levels. He is looking forward to re-uniting with his colleagues in Thunder Bay and to working once again with students in a school setting. The upcoming school year will provide both opportunity and challenge as he has been placed in a twin elementary portfolio in Thunder Bay.

Paul has been a member of the Executive Council for the past five years. He has served as a councillor, vice-president, president-elect and president. As executive liaison, he has worked with the Communications, Issues in Catholic Education and the Constitution committees. During his year as president, Paul especially valued the wonderful opportunities to visit many local principals' and vice-principals' associations throughout the province, to experience welcoming communities of dedicated principals and vice-principals, and to witness the amazing work our members do with our students every day.

Paul will remain on the Executive during 2006-2007 and looks forward to serving our members as past-president. He will act as the executive liaison to the Communications Committee. He looks forward to continuing to advocate for principals and vice-principals across the province as he works with the Executive Council to support Catholic education in Ontario.



Dan Tighe
President-Elect (secondary)

Dan Tighe is currently the principal of Ursuline College Catholic Secondary School with the St. Clair Catholic District School Board. Locally, Dan has been instrumental in the development of personal service contracts and associated terms and conditions agreements. He has also acted as the principal representative on his board's contract negotiating team for OECTA and CUPE deliberations. Dan currently serves as the secondary school

principal representative on the St. Clair Catholic District School Board's Student Success work group.

Dan was acclaimed to the position of CPCO president-elect at the AGM in April 2006 following two years as vice-president and secondary councillor. Prior to holding an Executive Council position, Dan served for four years on the CPCO Member Security Committee and chaired that committee for three years. In addition, he continues to serve as one of the CPCO representatives on the Benefits Review Committee with Johnson Inc. and is pleased to return to the Member Security Committee as executive liaison.

Dan's commitment to CPCO is rooted in his desire to ensure that all principals and vice-principals have active and effective advocacy at both the local and provincial levels. He trusts his background and experience will allow him to be a credible voice in that regard.



Joan Duckitt
Vice-President (elementary)

Joan Duckitt is the principal of Holy Rosary Catholic Elementary School in the London District Catholic School Board. She has been a school administrator in the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board as well. In both districts, she has been an active member of CPCO, serving on the CPCO Council of District Representatives, as president of the Huron-Perth Catholic Principals' Association and co-chair of the 2001 London District CPCO Professional Development Committee.

She has been a member of CPCO since her appointment as a principal in 1997. She was elected to the position of elementary councillor at the CPCO Annual General Meeting in April 2005, and will serve as vice-president in 2006-2007.

Joan's ongoing interest is evident in her involvement as a member of the CPCO Western Region Association since 1998 where she has performed the duties of secretary and treasurer. She is currently beginning her fourth term as chairperson of that organization.

Members will recognize Joan as a co-chair of the "Rooted in Faith" CPCO conference held in London in 2003. For the past two years, she served as executive liaison to the Professional Development Committee and was CPCO's representative on the "When Faith Meets Pedagogy" planning committee. This year, Joan will be an executive liaison to the Issues in Catholic Education and Professional Development committees. She will also serve as CPCO's representative on the Catholic Curriculum Corporation's board of directors.



Linda Frost
Treasurer

Linda is the principal of St. Paul Catholic School in Whitby and has been an active member of the Durham Catholic Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association for the past 19 years. In her local association, Linda had been treasurer for six years and has served as the chair of the association for four years. She was a member of her local Professional Development Committee and has served on their Terms and Conditions Committee. She continues to be an active member of the local association in the position of past-chair.

She gained experience with CPCO during her term as local president and delegate to CPCO's annual general meetings and also by representing her association on the Council of District Representatives. This year, Linda will continue to serve in the position of treasurer on the CPCO executive, a role to which she was first appointed in October 2003. She was re-elected to the position in April 2006.

Linda's goals, as an executive member of CPCO, are to support Catholic principals and vice-principals across the province, to be an advocate for Catholic education and to be an active participant, as she works on the Executive Council to build strong partnerships within the Catholic community. She hopes to bring both her experience and an elementary perspective to discussions around the table. This year Linda will act as executive liaison to the Finance committee.



Kevin Malcolm
Elementary Councillor

Kevin Malcolm is currently the Best Start program coordinator with the Toronto Catholic District School Board and is an active member of the Toronto Catholic Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association.

He is looking forward to serving the members as an elementary councillor on the CPCO Executive Council for a second year. Kevin gained experience with CPCO as chair of the Policy Research Committee for three years. He enjoyed the opportunity to act as a CPCO representative at numerous Ministry of Education workshops and government meetings.

As an elementary councillor on the Executive, Kevin is looking forward to continuing to serve principals and vice-principals across the province. He hopes to help further the wonderful gains CPCO has made in the area of political advocacy and government relations. He will again serve as liaison to the Policy Research Committee this year.



Carole Allen
Elementary Councillor

Carole Allen is the principal of St. Jean de Brébeuf School in the Simcoe-Muskoka Catholic District School Board. She has been with the board for the last 18 years, and worked with the Metropolitan Separate School Board for five years prior to that. Carole has served on her local association as elementary councillor and Professional Development chair. She is currently the president-elect.

In 2001, Carole was the program chair for the CPCO Conference "The Future is Here", hosted by Simcoe-Muskoka. Carole has served on the CPCO Professional Development Committee and the Member Security Committee.

Carole is excited about the opportunity to work with the CPCO Executive Council, in providing support to principals and vice-principals across the province. This year Carole will serve as executive liaison to the Member Security Committee. She is looking forward to working with the Executive Council to advocate for continued excellence in Catholic education and in serving the membership of CPCO.



Mary Ellen Agnel
Secondary Councillor

Mary Ellen is currently the vice-principal of St. Nicholas Adult High School in Ottawa and has been a member of the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association for nine years. She has served for five years as a member of her local association's Professional Development Committee.

She has been a member of CPCO since 1999 and is entering year two as a member of the CPCO Executive Council. Mary Ellen was on the planning committee for both the 2000 and 2005 CPCO conferences held in Ottawa.

As she enters her second year as a secondary councillor, she will continue to focus on local and provincial issues relating to principals and vice-principals across the province and to be an advocate at the executive table. This year, she will serve as the executive liaison to the Issues in Catholic Education Committee. She looks forward to serving members and working with the Executive Council, as they continue to foster the vision of Catholic education.



Jim Minello
Secondary Councillor

Jim is currently the principal of Holy Names High School in Windsor. Jim has been active in his local principals' and vice-principals' association by serving on the executive as a vice-principal representative and as the secondary councillor.

Jim has been a member of CPCO for seven years and is the newly appointed secondary councillor, filling the vacancy left by Mike Seguin after his promotion to supervisory officer. Provincially, Jim has served four years as a member of the Constitution Committee and the AGM Steering Committee. Having worked with the previous four presidents on that committee, Jim has gained valuable insight and great respect for the work of CPCO.

Jim will serve as the executive liaison to the Constitution Committee this year. As a member of the Executive Council, Jim is looking forward to working for and supporting principals and vice-principals in their role as Catholic leaders in the province.