

Meet the CPCO Executive Council for 2007 - 08

By **Marisa Celenza**, Editor



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Kevin Malcolm

Dan Tighe

President

Dan Tighe assumed his role as president of the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO) on July 1 of this year. He was first elected to the provincial executive as Secondary Councillor in 2004 after having served as chairperson of the Member Security Committee. During that time, Dan played a key role in the organization of CPCO's annual Employment Services Seminar and was a valuable resource to local principal groups seeking to improve their terms and conditions of employment. Dan has also represented Catholic principals on the provincial Benefits Review Committee playing an active role in advocating for improved disability and insurance benefits. He will continue in this capacity during his year as president and looks forward to being an ex officio member of the other CPCO standing committees.

Dan's interest in politics started in high school when he served as a volunteer for Herb Gray and as an executive member of the Windsor West Young Liberal Association. In university he was elected vice-president of the University of Windsor Young Liberals where he advocated for student rights.

Dan's passion for servant leadership continued to grow as a young teacher. While working in Kincardine, Dan enjoyed great success as a basketball coach and served on that community's recreation board. Dan relocated to Sarnia in 1983 to work with the prior Lambton County Separate School Board. He was entrusted by his peers to serve as local president of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association at both the elementary and secondary levels. He became a principal in 1997 and immediately involved himself with his local principals' association as chief negotiator following the implementation of Bill 160.

Dan was recognized for his dedication to CPCO by the St. Clair Catholic DSB's Principal and Vice-principal Association in 2006. In February 2007, he was honoured by The Learning Partnership as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals for his efforts to improve student learning at Ursuline College Chatham Catholic Secondary School.

When not "tilting at government windmills," Dan enjoys golfing, hockey, travel and fine dining.

Lou Rocha

Executive Director

Lou Rocha is entering his eighth year as the executive director of CPCO. He is seconded from the Toronto Catholic DSB, where he last served as elementary principal for 11 years. This is his 35th year in Catholic education. Together with the CPCO staff, Lou supports the membership through the Executive Council, seven standing committees, the Council of District Representatives and the district contract committees.

He works closely with government bodies and provincial organizations including; the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health Promotion, the Ontario College of Teachers, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association, the Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association and the Ontario Teachers' Federation. He is also a current board member of the Institute for Catholic Education, Curriculum Services Canada, the Catholic Curriculum Delivery Organization and Computers for Schools.

Lou is the first contact for members requiring professional assistance. He collaborates extensively with STERLON to provide effective legal and professional support for members. He also serves on the Benefits Review Committee that administers the Long Term Disability and other benefit programs for 1,400 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. Lou created the conceptual design for the Contract Manager website for terms and conditions of employment. He is currently working on streamlining the technology infrastructure of the organization.

Lou believes that the needs of current and future CPCO members must be addressed in the next month leading to the provincial election in October 2007, especially job security in light of declining enrolment. He also sees the need to focus on the threats to Catholic education that have surfaced in the course of the election campaign.

In the coming year, CPCO will focus on developing a new five-year strategic plan for 2007-12. Thirty-three key issues have been identified by the Executive Council for consultation with members,

partner organizations and associates. At the organizational level Lou believes that CPCO and its membership must focus on leadership development and succession plans in the local and provincial executives and at the staff level.

Don Rait

Past-president

Don thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to represent and serve the members of CPCO as president last year. He returned to his role as principal with the Simcoe-Muskoka Catholic DSB, at Father F. X. O'Reilly Catholic School in Tottenham.

Don has been on the CPCO Executive for the past six years as elementary councillor, vice-president, president-elect and president. He has served as executive liaison to the Professional Development and the Issues in Catholic Education committees. He will serve as the executive liaison to the Professional Learning Committee this year. He believes that it is critical for CPCO to promote and demonstrate the unique value of Catholic education.

Joan Duckitt

President-elect

Joan Duckitt is the principal of St. David Catholic Elementary School in London. She has been a member of CPCO since her appointment as a principal in 1997. She was appointed elementary councillor in 2004, and was re-elected to that position at the CPCO Annual General Meeting in April 2005. Joan will serve as president-elect in 2007-08.

Joan has been a school administrator in both the Huron-Perth Catholic DSB and the London District Catholic School Board. 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 Principals' Association and co-chair of the 2001 London District CPCO Professional Development Committee.

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, treasurer and chair. She received recognition for her involvement through a Dedication to CPCO award in 2006.

For the past three years Joan served as executive liaison to the Professional Development Committee. Joan has been CPCO's representative on the *When Faith Meets Pedagogy* Planning Committee in the past, and now serves on the Board of Directors of the Catholic Curriculum Corporation. This year, Joan will be an executive liaison to the Communications and 10th Anniversary Committees.

Members will recognize Joan as a co-chair of the *Rooted in Faith* CPCO Annual Conference held in London in 2003. She is excited to join her colleagues in hosting the Conference in London again. She invites you to join them in *Sowing the Seeds of Faith*.

Joan looks forward to continuing to serve the Catholic principals and vice-principals of Ontario at the executive table and on various committees.

Carole Allen

Treasurer

Carole Allen is principal of St. Jean de Brébeuf School in the Simcoe-Muskoka Catholic DSB. She has been with the board for the last 19 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.

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.

As treasurer, Carole will serve as executive liaison to the Finance Committee. She is looking forward to working with the CPCO Executive Council to advocate for continued excellence to provide support to principals and vice-principals across the province.

Mary Ellen Agnel

Vice-president

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 10 years. She continues to be an active member of this association by sitting on the professional development team. She is also the administrator responsible for on-line summer and night school reach ahead courses.

Mary Ellen has been a member of CPCO since 1999 and is entering year three as a member of the CPCO Executive Council. She looks forward to her new role as vice-president. She will continue to focus on local and provincial issues relating to principals and vice-principals across the province and to be an advocate for members at the Executive table.

She looks forward to serving members and working with the Executive Council to continue to foster the vision of Catholic education. She will serve as the executive liaison to the Issues in Catholic Education Committee.

Jim Minello

Secondary Councillor

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

Jim has been a member of CPCO for eight years and is serving his second term as secondary councillor. Provincially, Jim has served four years as a member of the Constitution Committee and the AGM Steering Committee. Having worked with the previous five 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, especially on issues such as supervision, Learning to 18, and the revised Safe Schools Act.

Joe Czackowski
Elementary Councillor

Joe Czackowski is currently the principal of St. Margaret School in Thunder Bay. For the past ten years, he has had the privilege of being a principal with the Thunder Bay Catholic DSB at the junior and senior elementary levels.

Locally, as an active member of the Catholic Principals' Council of Thunder Bay, he has served as president and CDR for the past three years, vice-president for two years, treasurer for one year and on the Member Security Committee for six years.

Joe had the opportunity to chair the Advisory Board to the Bishop for Youth Ministry for two years and has served as vice-president for the Youth Employment Services Board in Thunder Bay for three years.

Joe is looking forward to this opportunity to serve the membership as an elementary councillor on the CPCO Executive Council. During his four years on the CPCO Member Security Committee,

he assisted in the preparation of the Employment Services Seminars and chaired the committee for three years. He will be the executive liaison to the Member Security Committee. Joe will work to sustain Catholic education in the province of Ontario and to improve working conditions by advocating for changes to the *Education Act* to provide job security for principals and vice-principals.

Kevin Malcolm
Elementary Councillor

Kevin Malcolm has enjoyed serving the members as an elementary councillor on the CPCO Executive Council for the past two years. He has welcomed the opportunity to act as a CPCO representative at numerous Ministry of Education workshops and government meetings.

He is currently the academic coordinator of Human Resources with the Toronto Catholic DSB and he is an active member of the Toronto Catholic Principals' and Vice-principals' Association.

As an elementary councillor, Kevin is looking forward to continuing to serve and he is hoping to help to further the wonderful gains CPCO has made in the area of political advocacy and government relations especially as the October provincial election approaches. He will act as liaison to the Policy Research Committee, which he chaired for the previous three years.



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