



Jim Minello, President-elect

President-elect's Remarks

Annual General Meeting April 9, 2011

When I began volunteering with CPCO in 2002 I had no vision of ever being in this position today. Family and friends have asked, why are you giving up your school and moving away from your home for a year? The answer is similar to what many of you would answer if asked the same question. We are here as an answer to a call to serve. That is what our life is. In our schools, we serve our students, staff, parents and community in the work of Catholic education. In our roles as delegates and association representatives, we serve our colleagues in the provincial association and in our local boards. By serving, we have become part of something that is greater than any individual is. Through this service, in only 13 years we have grown to become the organization we know today. CPCO is a very proud and highly respected organization. In our short history we have earned the respect of everyone with whom we work. We have established many positive relationships with our Catholic partners, the Ministry of Education and other principal organizations both nationally and internationally. We have done that with the work of our members, the work of our executive council and executive director, and the work of our extremely dedicated and hard working staff. Every one of us is answering a call to serve. So I am honoured to serve you and all the members of CPCO in the role of president this year. I promise to continue the tradition of dedicated service and hard work that has been the hallmark of all of our previous presidents and continue to build the reputation of CPCO as the best and most respected principal's organization in Canada.

Our work in the next year will involve another major change in the organization as we move to a self-funded legal plan. We will be working with our new coordinator, Michael Schmidt, to ensure that our members receive excellent service and that their confidence in our system remains unshaken. We are convinced that he will be ready and able to provide you with the service you need when our STERLON contract expires. This is a key message that I hope you will relay to your members, so that they can work with confidence knowing that we will continue to meet one of our most important mandates.

This fall, we will be facing a provincial election. Regardless of the government that comes to power, our commitment will be the same that every executive council has made from the beginning: that is to work with the Ministry of Education and our partners to advocate for principals/vice-principals and Catholic education in all matters pertaining to us. Our goal will be to represent you, maintain and improve terms and conditions of employment, and advance the cause of Catholic education.

The executive council looks forward to continuing the important work we do with our council of district representatives (CDR) and our standing committees. The committees have been invaluable with their

input and guidance in all matters related to our business. The members owe a deep debt of gratitude to all committee volunteers for their generous donation of time and expertise and I certainly look forward to working with all of them. Our CDRs will be asked to make a renewed commitment to their role as liaisons between local associations and the provincial body. We invest large sums of our budget resources to our CDR meetings and we will be asking the CDRs to look closely at the requirements of the job before accepting the role. Local associations must be well informed and the CDR has to be committed to being present for entire agendas and returning to their members with complete and detailed reports. It is our hope that as delegates, you will return to your local associations with this same message so that when you select your CDR for next year, your principals and vice-principals will have the same expectations of that person.

We are very excited to offer outstanding professional learning opportunities and support services to our members. We stand by the wonderful reputation that CPCO has always enjoyed and we are moving forward with some new projects that will continue in the excellent tradition we have established for our members.

As we conclude another successful AGM, we extend a sincere thank you to our steering committee and speaker, Jim Cooney for another very efficiently run AGM. Thank you to Nelly Kelders, Gaby Aloï and the office staff who spend many hours preparing materials, collating and organizing every detail of the weekend. No one does it better! To our delegates, thank you for representing the members of your associations and for your participation in these business matters.

In closing, I want to acknowledge Joe Czackowski for his leadership this year as president. He has managed another year of big changes in the organization and along with Patricia Manson, our executive director has been able to keep the organization running smoothly and moving in a positive direction. To Paul Lacalamita, past-president, thank you for your guidance, leadership and friendship. Your many years of service as a committee member and an executive member have been invaluable to the growth of our organization. To Glenn Miller thank you very much for all you have contributed to the organization as a committee member and an executive liaison. You have been a generous servant to CPCO. To our executive council, many thanks for the hours of hard work and dedicated service you provide to this organization. Finally, congratulations and welcome to the new members of the executive council, Simone Beaucage and Wayne Hill. Put your seatbelts on and get ready for an exciting year. Thank you everyone and enjoy the final months of your school year. God bless.