

ANNUAL REPORT

April 2008 - March 2009



Canadian Centre for Ethics in Public Affairs

CCEPA is a joint initiative of the Atlantic School of Theology and Saint Mary's University.



CCEPA provides an arena for critical thinking, public discussion and research into current ethical challenges in our society.

Ethics in Public Affairs is about how the values of individuals and organizations interact and evolve to enable us to live and work together more effectively.



Bill Black
Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

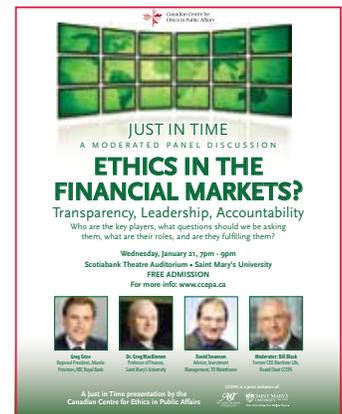
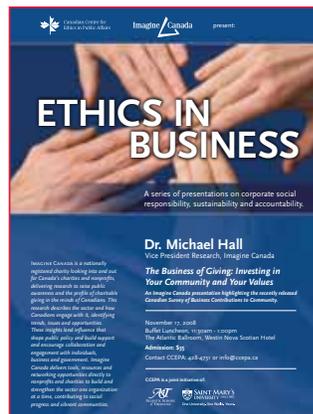
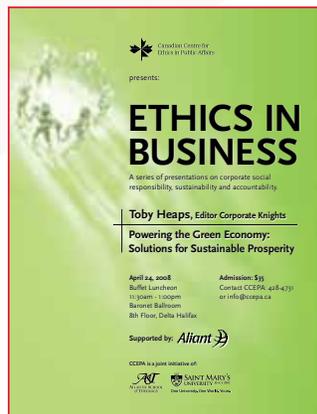
The past year has been one of transition for the Centre. We continued a tradition of excellent programming with our Trust in Education Series with presentations by some of the most respected names in the field. We responded to topical issues like the global financial crisis with a panel discussion in our Just in Time series and continued to give a focus to Ethics in Business. We bid farewell to our first Executive Director, Frank Schwartz, with much appreciation for the sterling work he did in moving the Centre from concept to reality. We embarked with enthusiasm on the search for a new Executive Director and were delighted when Dr. Sheila Brown, a well-known and respected educational leader, accepted our invitation to assume the position. Sheila will build on Frank's legacy, in tandem with our very able General Manager Chris Stover, and advance CCEPA's work in complementary directions. The Centre's Board is actively engaged in generating ideas, establishing policy and promoting our work in the community. It has been a privilege to serve as Chair and I hand over this role to Allan Shaw with confidence that the Centre will continue to play an important role in engaging the public in debates on contemporary ethical issues. We could not do our work without the continued commitment of our founding institutions, the Atlantic School of Theology and Saint Mary's University, and our individual, government and corporate supporters. We express our profound appreciation to them all.



Sheila Brown
Executive Director

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Walking in the English Lake District last Fall, I received word of an opportunity to consider the Executive Directorship of the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Public Affairs. Researching the position, I became increasingly impressed with the important work the Centre is accomplishing. It resonated with me because of my long-standing interest in how we incorporate ethical considerations into educational curriculum and translate our knowledge into action. I began the transition with my predecessor, Frank Schwartz, in November of 2008. Under Frank's leadership the Centre developed a strong reputation for delivering quality programs presented by an impressive list of experts in their respective fields, as well as reaching out into the community to work with partners and assist organizations in incorporating values into their operations. My challenge is to build on and sustain this firm foundation and develop, in parallel, CCEPA's mandate to support research, reach out to increasingly diverse audiences and expand the Centre's profile across Canada. If the first six months are anything to go by, rising to this challenge will be exciting and rewarding. I look forward to working with CCEPA's Board, our programming partners and our diverse stakeholders to fulfill our mission and advance towards our longer-term vision.



MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

MISSION

CCEPA provides an arena for critical thinking, public discussion and research into current ethical challenges in society.

VISION

CCEPA's vision is to be recognized and known for exemplary programs and the results of those efforts, for its truly collaborative approach, to have a national presence and to be financially self-sustaining.

VALUES

CCEPA promotes the public good through cultivating and disseminating knowledge about ethical issues to help generate new insights, provide greater awareness and heal misunderstandings. The Centre is guided in this work by commitment to the values of:

- promoting open and respectful debate on contemporary public issues
- enhancing the capacity of organizations to address ethical challenges
- conducting our activities in a transparent and self-critical manner.

RESEARCH

CCEPA's mandate in research calls for identifying, analyzing and disseminating the issues. In support of that goal we are committed to strengthening the research program and boosting capacity, thereby establishing the Centre as a credible venue for the support of scholarly work and the sharing of information about the ethical dimensions of public issues. A good start was made with the awarding of research grants in prior years to two scholars – Dr. Bennet Davetian, from the University of Prince Edward Island and Dr. Chris MacDonald of Saint Mary's. In 2008-09 we undertook to support research in applied ethics conducted by scholars associated with CCEPA and issued a call for applications for two CCEPA Research Fellowships and will be reporting on the outcome of that initiative in our next report.



*CCEPA Public Program
Scotiabank Theatre Auditorium, Sobey School of
Business, Saint Mary's University*



*Rev. Canon Eric Beresford, President Atlantic
School of Theology; Justin Trottier, Executive
Director, Centre for Inquiry Canada; Moderator:
Kevin Kindred, Legal Counsel, Bell Aliant*



*Dr. J. Colin Dodds, President, Saint Mary's University;
Honorable Jean Pierre Blackburn, Federal Minister of
Revenue; Dr. Sheila A. Brown, Executive Director, CCEPA*

WE SAID WE WOULD...

PROGRAM

Develop and present exciting, provocative presentations on challenging issues engaging public audiences through the pursuance of difficult, diverse, fresh and relevant topics.

RESEARCH

Develop collaborative research projects

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Promote brand recognition, media attention and public dialogue

RESOURCE ACCESS

Provide CCEPA facilities for use by like-minded groups working on public issues.

CONSULTATION

Provide support to organizations in areas of ethics frameworks and practices

WE DID...

Inaugurated The CCEPA Annual Lecture
Mounted four-part *Trust in Education* series
Hosted three *Ethics in Business* presentations
Presented three *Just in Time* panel discussions
Co-hosted sustainable development lecture within the Saint Mary's University *Sustainability Conversations Speaker Series*

Assumed management of the Atlantic Hub of the Canadian Business Ethics Research Network (CBERN)
Extended a call for proposals for two research fellowships
Extended timeline for CCEPA funded research on civility by Dr. Benet Davetian at UPEI

Unveiled the CCEPA Blog. Accessible on the CCEPA website, the blog is written by two University of King's College journalism students as part of a 'Bloggers in Residence' initiative.

Created a CCEPA Facebook group to promote events and discussion

Updated website to accommodate viewing of CCEPA's full DVD library

Secured weekly airtime on ASN and Eastlink for CCEPA programming

Twenty-one different groups used the CCEPA Boardroom facilities in the past year

CCEPA hosted Federal Minister of Revenue, Jean Pierre Blackburn for informal pre-budget discussions with interested community members

Provide judging services for the annual Dalhousie Business Ethics Case Competition.

CCEPA continued its work defining an ethical framework for Windsor Elms Village, a Windsor, Nova Scotia nursing home.



PROGRAM

In the 2008-09 programming year, CCEPA hosted twelve public presentations. These took the form of **The CCEPA Annual Lecture**, a four-part **Trust in Education** series, three **Ethics in Business** lectures, three **Just in Time** panel discussions, and one other event.



Preston Manning



Dan Leger, Director News content, Halifax Chronicle Herald; Dr. Mark Mercer, Professor of Philosophy, Saint Mary's University; Chris Stover, General Manager, CCEPA; Krista Daley, CEO, Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission; Pearl Eliadis, Montreal Human Rights Lawyer

The CCEPA Annual Lecture, designed to bring in prominent Canadians to discuss relevant issues of the day, was headlined by Preston Manning who delivered an address on re-engaging Canadians in democracy.

The Trust in Education series explored our level of trust in the education system to produce young people who can go to work, function in society and be critical thinkers. Three prominent keynote speakers, as well as a group of high school debaters, fielded the question of whether our education system is doing what it's supposed to. This series featured Dr. Paul Cappon, President and CEO of the Canadian Council on Learning, Sir John Daniel, President and CEO of the Commonwealth of Learning, and Dr. Bernard J. Shapiro, former Federal Ethics Commissioner and former Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University.

Our **Ethics in Business** series began with a presentation on powering the green economy with Toby Heaps, Editor in Chief at Corporate Knights Magazine. Dr. R. Edward Freeman, the leading American commentator on corporate social responsibility, delivered an address at Dalhousie University on the real ethics crisis in business. This series also featured a presentation on the investments businesses make in the community through their philanthropy programs by Dr. Michael Hall, Vice-President of Research for Imagine Canada.

The Just in Time series delved into discussions surrounding the timely issues of the financial crisis, Human Rights Commissions and free speech, as well as the national atheist campaign to place ads on buses which state: 'there's probably no God anyway, so you might as well enjoy yourself'. Halifax lawyer Kevin Kindred moderated the debates on Human

Rights and Free Speech, brought together Krista Daley, head of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, and Pearl Eliadis, a Montreal human rights lawyer to debate with Dan Leger, Director of News Content at the Halifax Herald and Saint Mary's University Philosophy Professor, Dr. Mark Mercer. These four discussed whether Human Rights Commissions or the media have gone too far in the name of protecting, or allowing for free speech. In *Can We be Good without God?*, Atlantic School of Theology President, Canon Eric Beresford debated whether religion is foundational to our collective sense of right and wrong with the head of the Free Thought Association of Canada, Justin Trottier. CCEPA Chair Bill Black moderated a panel discussion on ethics in financial markets. Saint Mary's University Finance Professor Greg MacKinnon, financial advisor David Swanson and RBC Atlantic provinces Regional President Greg Grice looked closely at the people and organizations involved in the financial crisis and the issues of transparency, leadership and accountability.

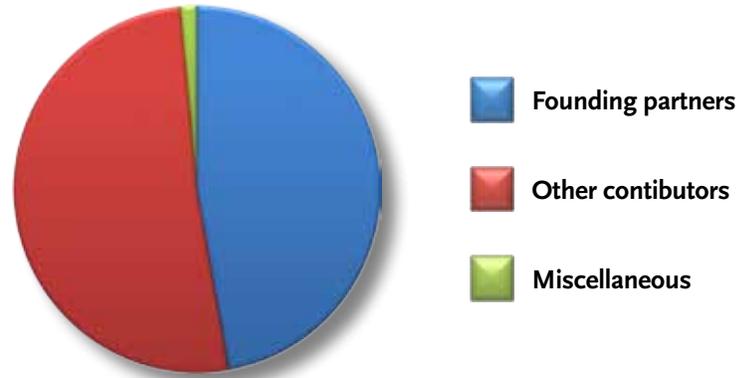
CCEPA also partnered with the **Sustainability Conversations Speakers Series** at Saint Mary's University to present a lecture outlining the history of the sustainable development movement with Dr. Blair Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Development for Ontario Power Generation

FINANCES

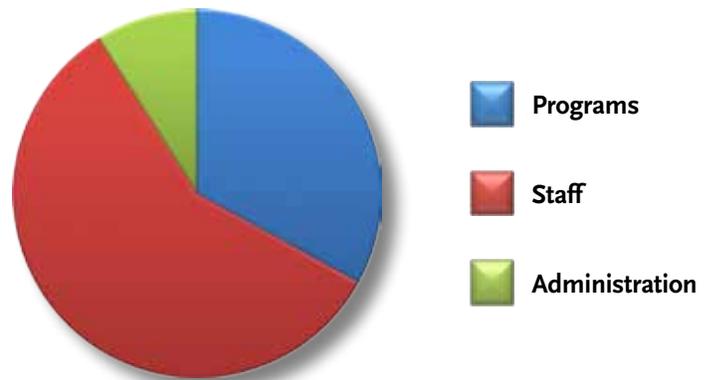
CCEPA had a modest operating budget totaling \$127,646 in 2008-09. Support from our founding partners, the Atlantic School of Theology and Saint Mary's University accounted for a significant portion of total funding (45%), a scenario that is changing as the Centre broadens and stabilizes its sources of support. External support, as a result of the generosity of a number of individuals and organizations, accounted for the remaining 55 percent.

The finances of the Centre were managed well within budget and, largely on account of staffing changes, the year concluded with a cash balance of \$13,861. Fund-raising efforts are well underway and will bear fruit in 2009-10.

ANNUAL REVENUES



ANNUAL EXPENDITURES



CCEPA AS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE

In keeping with our mission to provide an arena for critical thinking, CCEPA's facilities can be booked for a nominal fee to like-minded organizations. In the past year we have accommodated:

Anglican Committee for
Postulant Ordination

Atlantic Council for
International Cooperation

Canadian Evaluation Society

Capital Health Nutritionists

CBERN

Children's Aid Society of Halifax
Foundation

Dalhousie Health Law Institute

Dalhousie Management

Career Services

Dalhousie University

Medical School

Green Communities Canada

Ecelaw - East Coast

Environmental Law

Ecology Action Centre

Family Mediation Nova Scotia

IWK Health Centre

Maritime Provinces Higher

Education Commission

Metro Community

Housing Association

NSEN - Nova Scotia

Environmental Network

Nova Scotia Human Right's
Commission

Pine Hill Divinity

Advisory Committee

Roman Catholic

Formation Program

St. Matthew's Church



LOOKING FORWARD

The Centre's three year strategic and business plan for 2009-12 charts the way ahead. We are committed to pursuing four key strategic directions:

- Sustaining and developing exciting, provocative, challenging and appealing programming which generates positive evaluations, repeat attendance and audience growth.
- Broadening our appeal to an increasingly diverse audience, in Nova Scotia and beyond, through strategic local, regional and national partnerships, targeted topics and the use of new media.
- Strengthening our research program and boosting capacity through attracting and supporting Research Fellows whose work in Applied Ethics, and association with the Centre, will complement our public programs.
- Accelerating the creation of a sustainable business model to support CCEPA's continued existence through broadening our base of support, offering our resources to assist others.

Our Action Plan sets out the principal initiatives needed to address each strategic direction. To succeed, CCEPA will need to retain the support of its founding institutions, maintain and enhance its fundraising efforts and develop new revenue streams. We look forward to this challenge with enthusiasm and a renewed commitment to our mission of providing an arena for critical thinking, public discussion and research into current ethical challenges in society.

SUPPORTERS

We gratefully acknowledge the support of businesses and individuals that have made gifts to the Atlantic School of Theology or Saint Mary's University, earmarked for CCEPA. Without these gifts our work could not be accomplished.



William and Lorraine Black

Eric Jr. and Kirsten Schibler

Photography courtesy of Melvin Chisholm Photography

THE CCEPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The CCEPA Board has 16 members. Five members are nominated by Saint Mary's University, five by the Atlantic School of Theology and seven by the Board. The five nominees from each university generally include a senior official, two academics, one graduate student and one from the community.

Art Donahoe

Retired lawyer and politician

* **Eric Beresford**

President,
Atlantic School of Theology

Fred Crooks

Executive Vice-President, Corporate
Services and Chief Legal Officer,
Bell Aliant

Jody Clarke

Professor,
Atlantic School of Theology

Terry Murphy

Vice President,
Academic & Research
Saint Mary's University

Paul O'Regan

Chair, O'Regan's

Gordon Fullerton

Associate Dean, Master's Program
Sobey School of Business

Connie Bygrave

Graduate Student,
Saint Mary's University

* **William A. Black**

Retired Business Executive

Catherine Meade

Legal Counsel, Bell Aliant

* **Valerie Payn**

President,
Halifax Chamber of Commerce

Allan Shaw

Chairman, The Shaw Group

Paul Bowlby

Chair, Religious Studies
Saint Mary's University

Jamie Saunders

Judge, Nova Scotia Court of Appeal

Catherine J. Woodman

CEO and President,
United Way of Halifax Region

* **Frank Schwartz**

Executive Director
(to December 2008)

* **Sheila Brown**

Executive Director
(from December 2008)

* *Executive committee member*

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Canadian Centre for Ethics in Public Affairs

630 Francklyn Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 3B4 Canada

Tel: 902.428.4731
Fax: 902.428.4776

info@ccepa.ca • www.ccepa.ca