

# ANNUAL REPORT 2013 - 2014



## 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.



**Valerie Payn**  
Chair

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

There is something to be said for not playing golf, and one of them is the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Public Affairs.

Ten years ago the presidents of the Atlantic School of Theology and Saint Mary's University weren't golfers. When the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents gathered for a round after an annual meeting, Bill Close and Colin Dodds sat out. Instead, they began a conversation about the need for a public outreach of the universities for disciplined attention to the ethical dimensions of public life.

I joined the Board of Directors of CCEPA shortly after its inception in 2004 - and am one of its longest serving Board members. This is because I believe in CCEPA's vision and wanted to invest my time and effort making it happen.

As I leave the Board this year, I take away many proud moments of sharing in the growth of this small but mighty organization, one that has now become part of the fabric of our community.

Whether it was hosting speakers like Phil Fontaine, or tackling discussions around timely, and often highly controversial topics such as the rape chant, whether we can be good without God, pedophilia and the Catholic Church, or end of life dilemmas, I feel we are a better society for having these open and honest conversations.

CCEPA will be well served in the term ahead in the capable hands of incoming Chair, Dr. Pat Bradshaw, Dean of the Sobey School of Business at Saint Mary's University; Chris Stover as Executive Director, replacing Susan Letson who retired earlier this spring; and newcomer University of King's College graduate Katie Merwin as Program Administrator.

I will always support the Centre, but from the sidelines now, and wish the new leadership team and incoming Board Members every success as CCEPA heads into its next decade. I hope you will join me in spreading the word about this worthy organization and help attract the financial support it needs to continue its valuable work.



**Chris Stover**  
Executive Director

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Canadian Centre for Ethics in Public Affairs exists because ten years ago our founding partners believed that how we live matters. I, too, hold this belief strongly and couldn't be more proud to take on the leadership of this organization.

In providing a forum for engagement in critical issues that have an impact on our work and personal communities, CCEPA serves the public good by highlighting issues for discussion, especially those lacking attention in public consciousness.

My energy over the last several years as General Manager of CCEPA has focused on delivering the public programming to serve that goal. CCEPA has worked really hard this year to expose its relevance and value to the community through new program formats like Everyday Ethics. The Centre is now a place where people gather over a simple lunch for informal conversations about ethical dilemmas we encounter at work, at home, and in our understanding of the wider world. These discussions make a vital impact, informing our choices about what's right and wrong, our duties and our obligations.

In the year ahead my focus as Executive Director will involve working closely with our Board of Directors in the development of a new strategic plan, and with the committees to enhance our successes in fundraising, community impact, research and public scholarship. I am excited about the potential for growth for CCEPA. With a successful model for financial sustainability, CCEPA can evolve and take its rightful place as a national organization recognised for its tremendous contribution to how we think and act through the exploration of contemporary public issues.

CCEPA aims to provide ways to imagine things differently with initiatives that invite contemplation of how we ought to live, and through this, creates an important ripple in the pond.



## PROGRAM



**Dr. Sarah S. Richardson, *Gender, Science, and Social Values: The Search for Sex Differences in the Human Genome*, September 2013**

CCEPA works to enhance the capacity to address ethical challenges. One of the ways this is achieved in the community is through offering public access to experienced presenters, scholars and experts in various fields for discussion and learning opportunities. CCEPA reached almost 2,000 people in person and on-line through its public programming in 2013-14. Working with a wide variety of

collaborating partners and individuals, the Centre played host to 19 public events spanning the topic areas of ethics in science, business and social issues.

A new program format, **Everyday Ethics**, was launched in September in effort to provide a space for people to gather for informal conversations about things that matter and create a physical presence for the Centre. **Everyday Ethics** engages audiences in thoughtful, provocative discussions about challenges in our society, our perspectives on them and the choices we make. The format offers a connection to others through a unique blend of social, community and academic elements. Meaningful discussions are led by members of our community, or special guests, including business leaders, artists, lawyers, students, activists and academics. The sessions are casual, informative, educational and social and are designed to

mesh experiences of varied social, cultural and economic backgrounds. **Everyday Ethics** is a format for exploring real world problems through the lens of philosophical principles of how we ought to live. And it is through this discovery of new understandings that we might live together more effectively.

The Marshall Lecture in Public Philosophy led off the program year in September 2013 with **Gender, Science, and Social Values: The Search for Sex Differences in the Human Genome**. Dr. Sarah S. Richardson, of the History of Science Department at Harvard University, explored how genome sequencing has brought about an explosion of new research on the biological differences between the sexes.

The eruption of the rape chant controversy at Saint Mary's University coincided with the launch of **Everyday Ethics**. The first session drew a packed house led by Dr. Patricia Bradshaw and Dr. Ester E. Enns of Saint Mary's University. The group discussed how to counter rape culture, and whether the chanting was a surface manifestation of



**Dr. Pat Bradshaw, *Everyday Ethics, Systemic Oppression of Women, Internalized Sexism and Rape Culture*, September 2013**

## MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

### MISSION:

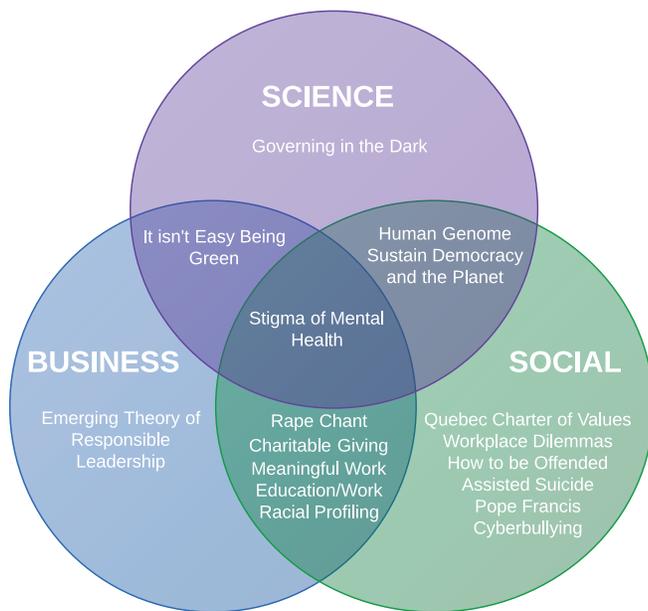
CCEPA provides an arena for critical thinking, public discussion and research into current ethical challenges in society.

### VISION:

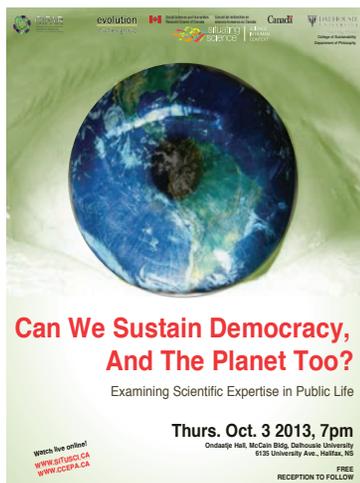
CCEPA's vision is to be recognized and known for exemplary programs, the results of those efforts, and its truly collaborative approach, to have a national presence and to be financially self-sustaining.

### 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.



deeper cultural values normalizing violence against women. The group also considered the place of teaching ethics and social values in university if the emphasis shifts from humanities to the sciences.



In October CCEPA partnered with the Situating Science Knowledge Cluster, the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, the Evolution Studies Group and Dalhousie University's College of Sustainability and Department of Philosophy to present **Can we Sustain Democracy and the**

**Planet Too?: Exploring Scientific Expertise in Public Life.** Almost six hundred people came to hear Dr. Philip Kitcher, Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University, challenge what he claims are narrow perspectives on climate change. Kitcher criticized a lack of popular support for the measures he contends are urgently needed to limit global warming.

In late October, CCEPA partnered with the Segelberg Trust to host a roundtable conversation on **Is Faith Relevant to Public Policy on Death and Dying?** A diversity of participants representing community and occupational interests spent a half-day discussing the ways in which faith is, can, or should be relevant to policy set by governments with respect to end of life issues.

In keeping with the theme of euthanasia and assisted suicide, CCEPA collaborated with the 2b Theatre Company, sponsoring two evening performances of **How to Disappear Completely.** The Bus Stop



**Christian Barry, Itai Erdal, Anthony Black (2bTheatre) and Chris Stover (CCEPA),** *Everyday Ethics, A Question of Compassion: A Personal Account of Assisted Suicide*, February 2014

Theatre performance, written and performed by Itai Erdal focused on assisted suicide. Erdal was inspired by the real-life experience of helping his mother die after she was diagnosed with lung cancer. This presentation also featured a post-show talkback session moderated by CCEPA Program Chair Kevin Kindred. **How to Disappear Completely** was a starkly simple yet deeply profound performance that challenged audiences' views on love and assisted dying, in contrast to assisted suicide. Erdal also participated in an **Everyday Ethics** session **A Question of Compassion** providing another opportunity for public engagement in the contemplation of this difficult issue.

In collaboration with the Rowe School of Business at Dalhousie University, CCEPA took advantage of visiting scholar Derick de Jongh. De Jongh is the founder and director of the Albert Luthuli Centre for Responsible Leadership at the University of Pretoria, South Africa.





took advantage of visiting scholar Dr. Deborah Stienstra, who currently holds the Nancy's Chair in Women's Studies at Mount Saint Vincent University.

Former CCEPA Board Chair and Halifax business leader, Bill Black led a discussion about **Ethical Workplace Dilemmas**, asking audience members to reflect how practical questions arising in the workplace, especially those involving gender issues, can be resolved.

In **How to be Offended: The Hate Speech Debate**, Kevin Kindred, Halifax Lawyer and spokesperson for the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project skillfully led a discussion on the tension in human rights law which protects vulnerable groups from hateful and intolerant speech but can also cross the line and become a form of censorship.

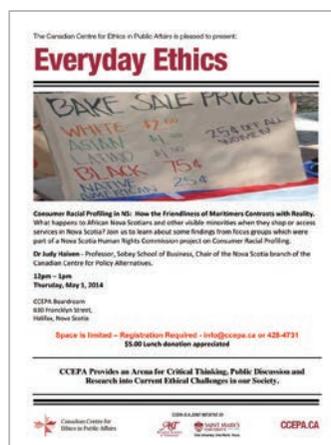
**Education and the Promise of Prosperity** featured a fish bowl style conversation with four participants from a variety of backgrounds who shared experiences about the transition from various educational institutions and eventually into the workplace. This lunchtime presentation was facilitated by CCEPA 2013-14 Scholar in Residence, Karl Turner.

David Fraser, one of Canada's leading internet, technology and privacy lawyers, invited guests to contemplate **Cyberbullying, the Law and Free Expression on the Internet**. Fraser provided participants with the context for legal responses to harmful behavior online, highlighting the

challenges presented by definitions in current case law.

**Consumer Racial Profiling in Nova Scotia: How the Friendliness of Maritimers Contrasts with Reality** prompted audiences to consider what happens to African Nova Scotians and other visible minorities when they access services in Nova Scotia and other visible minorities when they access services in

Nova Scotia. Dr. Judy Haiven, Sobey School of Business professor at Saint Mary's University, shared recent focus group findings contained in a Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission project on Consumer Racial Profiling.



## RESEARCH

CCEPA welcomed Karl Turner as CCEPA **Scholar in Residence** for 2013-2014. Karl is a doctoral student in the Educational Studies Program at Mount Saint Vincent University researching the relationship between work,



**Karl Turner, CCEPA Scholar in Residence 2013-2014**

education and debt. By day Karl is the Registrar at the Nova Scotia Community College, which compliments his work at CCEPA. Karl serves a valuable role on the Research Committee assisting in the development of public scholarship initiatives.

CCEPA Research Fellow 2011-12 Dr. David Stuewe, Dalhousie University, along with co-investigators continue their work on the **Public Private Partnerships and Municipal Decision Making** project, as well as the development of a case study on the Ethical Use of Common Land.

CCEPA joined with the **Canadian Business Ethics Research Network (CBERN)** as a strategic partner in its bid to create a National Centre for Excellence (NCE) under the direction of Dr. Wes Cragg of York University. The creation of this National Centre for Excellence would enhance CCEPA's capacity to broaden and enrich its work on public examination of value-based challenges in Canadian economic development. CCEPA was the Atlantic Regional Hub of CBERN from 2009-2013.

## ETHICS SUPPORT SERVICES

CCEPA offers ethics-oriented advice and services to groups and organizations including developing and reviewing Values Statements, Ethics Frameworks, problem solving, organizational issues, and acting as third party or honest broker. CCEPA offers these services with flexibility through one-time meetings and sessions, facilitating developmental or review processes and providing continuing support. For more information please contact Frank Schwartz, **CCEPA Advisor in Residence**, at frank.schwartz@ccepa.ca



## FINANCES

Centre finances were managed well within budget for the year ending March 31, 2014. Expenditures totaled \$125,423 and revenues totaled \$130,215. The 3.7% surplus revenue from 2013-14 will be added to the reserve surplus funds for a fiscal year-end balance of \$80,195.

Institutional support from CCEPA's two founding partners, Atlantic School of Theology and Saint Mary's University, combined with a sustaining contribution from the Province of Nova Scotia, continued to provide a stable source of funding for CCEPA, accounting for 41.2% of overall revenue. CCEPA appreciates the ongoing loyal support from these partners.

Fundraising efforts accounted for 55.7% of overall revenue. The continued support and generosity of donors accounted for funds totaling \$72,100, just short of the year's fundraising target of \$80,000.

External sources of funding as a result of partnerships, collaborations and audience donations accounted for 82.3% of program costs. These efforts to diversify sources of funding, as laid out in the current strategic plan, resulted in CCEPA shouldering just 17.7 % of the cost to run a successful program year.

## CCEPA IN COLLABORATION

**CCEPA is grateful for the collaboration, partnership and support of colleagues, institutions, groups and organizations listed here:**

2b Theatre Company · Atlantic School of Theology · Canadian Business Ethics Research Centre (CBERN) · Dalhousie University: College of Sustainability, Department of Philosophy, Department of Physics and Atmospheric Science, Rowe School of Business and Schulich School of Law · Evidence for Democracy · Rowland Marshall Public Philosophy Lecture Fund · Saint Mary's University: Department of Philosophy and Sobey School of Business · Segelberg Trust · Situating Science Knowledge Cluster

## SUPPORTERS

APRIL 2013-MARCH 2014



Bill and Lorraine Black

Peter Boyd

Dr. Pat Bradshaw

Jennifer Church

Dr. Judy Haiven

The Estate of Patrick Power

Eric Jr. and Kirsten Schibler

Allan and Leslie Shaw

Michael Zatzman

## CCEPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The CCEPA Board has 18 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 include a senior official, two academics, one graduate student and one from the community. The Executive Director serves ex officio.

\* **ERIC BERESFORD**

President, Atlantic School of Theology

**ROSS BARTLETT**

Minister, United Church of Canada

**ROB BENNETT**

Executive VP and COO, Emera

\* **PATRICIA BRADSHAW**

Dean, Sobey School of Business  
Saint Mary's University

\* **PETER BOYD**

Wealth Management Advisor

**JENNIFER CHURCH**

Executive Director, Office of Planning &  
Priorities, Government of Nova Scotia

**DAVID DEANE**

Professor of Theology,  
Atlantic School of Theology

**DAVID FARRAR**

Judge, Nova Scotia Court of Appeal

**DANNY GRAHAM**

Senior Advisor, McInnes Cooper

**RYLAN HIGGINS**

Professor of Anthropology,  
Saint Mary's University

**JUDY KAZIMIRSKI**

General Practitioner and Health  
Systems Consultant

\* **SUSAN LETSON**

Executive Director, Retired April 2014

**MARGARET MACDONALD**

Deputy Minister,  
Finance and Treasury Board

\* **VALERIE PAYN**

President, Halifax Chamber  
of Commerce

**DAVID PEER**

Graduate Student,  
Atlantic School of Theology

**MICHAEL SCOTT**

Chairman, Precision BioLogic

\* **CHRIS STOVER**

Executive Director

**CRISTIAN SUTEANU**

Professor, Geography and Environmental  
Science, Saint Mary's University

**HEIDI WEIGAND**

Senior Consultant, Saint Mary's  
University Business Development Centre

\* *Executive committee member*

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



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#### CCEPA ONLINE

