

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Founded in 2004, the CATHII's objective is to fight human trafficking (in the form of sexual exploitation and forced labour), particularly of women and children. Its role is to analyze and develop action strategies to fight human trafficking. Its efforts including awareness raising, education and promoting fair solutions that respect the rights of victims of human trafficking.



A Word from the Chair

The past year at the Comité d'action contre la traite humaine interne et internationale (CATHII) was rife with emotion. The pandemic continues to disrupt our way of living and working, but work has continued, as you will note in this annual report.

We welcomed three new representatives of member communities: France Parent from the Oblates Franciscaines de Saint-Joseph, Lise Gagnon from the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (generalate), and Dominik Tremblay-Perron, coordinator for Social Justice, the Congregation of Notre-Dame. We also had the pleasure of welcoming two new member communities, the community of the Grey Nuns of Montreal, represented by IsaBelle Couillard, and Isabelle Thibault from the International Misericordia Family.

We thank the Congregation of Sisters of Saint Anne of Québec who have housed the CATHII in their offices on Christophe-Colomb Avenue for a decade. It was a year full of twists and turns, but a productive one.

As I write my last word as chair of the CATHII, I would like to share with you how happy I have been to perform this role.

Francine Cabana, Chair

A Word from the Coordinator

My second year as coordinator of CATHII began with the fortunate discovery of the Talitha Kum Network, the International Network of religious sisters who are activists against human trafficking. From September 21 to 27, 2019, as a joint delegate with Claudette Desmarais, ss.cc.j.m., we participated in the Network's General Assembly in Rome. During the meeting, which brought together 86 delegates from all continents, Sister Nicole Rivard was one of ten nuns recognized for her commitment to fighting human trafficking. We continued our trip in Geneva to meet with Franciscans International, one of CATHII's major partners. Accredited by the United Nations, Franciscans International introduced us to the UN's Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons team to present a few significant facts about the human trafficking situation in Canada.

The pandemic disrupted a part of our calendar, leading the Board of Directors to seek alternate ways to build connections within the CATHII and with those with whom we stand:



Sister Nicole Rivard (second from the right) receives the "10 Years Talitha Kum Award" at home with members of the CATHII

people vulnerable to exploitation and victims of human trafficking. This enabled CATHII to remain united, vital, and relevant throughout 2019-2020.

In closing, I would like to thank Claudette Bastien, s.n.j.m. on our behalf, who left the Board of Directors after 10 years of commitment and generous, loyal collaboration. Also, a big, BIG THANK YOU to Francine Cabana for her ongoing support and her unflagging availability as president of CATHII for the past five years.

France Laforge, Coordinator

An active Board of Directors

We have every reason to be proud of the work done by the Board of Directors despite the



restrictions related to the pandemic. Thanks to each member's availability, beginning in March, Board of Directors meetings were held by video conference to track CATHII activities.

This Year's Highlights

Current Events/Advocacy Committee

- A letter was sent to Minister Bill Blair (Public Safety, Government of Canada) and Minister Maryam Monsef (Women and Gender Equality) to request details about the use of the \$75 million promised in the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking 2019-2024.
- Having noted the partial closure of the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline, the CATHII sent a letter to the four ministers involved (including the Prime Minister of Canada) to call for its full reopening. A thank you letter was also sent in June 2020, following the full reopening of the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline.
- A SPECIAL REPORT ON COVID-19 and human trafficking was prepared, in the form of two documents that present the effects and initiatives, within and outside Québec (Canada and the world).

The Financial Sustainability

CATHII's Financial Sustainability Committee was formed November 22 during our 2019 General Annual Meeting. In winter 2020, the committee was busy detailing the steps for applying for a charity number to Canada Revenue Agency. It also gathered advice from a partner organization. The committee's work has gotten off to a good start.

The Students Committee for UN conference

This project is designed to invite university students to receive training with CATHII to prepare to participate in a United Nations (UN) session.



Since the pandemic, France Laforge, Élodie Ekobena, Lise Gagnon, s.n.j.m., have reworked the project and on April 7 met with Jill Hanley, a professor at McGill University who has long been involved in the CATHII. Jill Hanley agreed to support this project as an associate professor. With COVID-19... which shows no signs of slowing... and which managed to slow us down, Jill suggested seeing whether the UN sessions could be followed by Zoom, since students are now used to this new approach.

Collaborations and partnerships

Franciscans International and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons team

With the support of the Franciscans International, France Laforge and Claudette Desmarais, ssc.j.m., met with a member of the UN's Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons team to share facts and specifics about human trafficking in Canada.



La Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse (CDJDP)

With the contribution of Nancy Roberge, the CATHII coordinated developing a podcast on human trafficking, in cooperation with organizations that work directly with women who suffer sexual exploitation and with the CDJDP.

The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR)

On November 27, 2019, the coordinator of the CATHII attended the National Forum on Human Trafficking organized by the CCR, the Fall Consultation, and two webinars about people who are more vulnerable during the pandemic.

A priority: maintaining the Coalition québécoise contre la traite des personnes

After a five-month work stoppage because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the coordinator of the Coalition québécoise contre la traite des personnes (CQCTP) has been back since August 17. With the help of the coordination committee, the coordinator immediately picked up where he left off in March, i.e., constituting the CQCTP as a non-profit corporation. It is a priority designed to sustain the Coalition and, in turn, the coordination position necessary to ensure the proper functioning of the CQCTP.

We hope that the transformation of the CQCTP into a non-profit organization will help with financing and full recognition with government authorities.

In terms of work, our priority objective is to do everything we can to ensure the sustainability of the CQCTP.



CATHII Members

Compagnie de Jésus (Province jésuite du Canada)/Jesuits of Canada

Conférence religieuse canadienne/Canadian Religious Conference

Congrégation de Notre-Dame/Congregation of Notre Dame

Congrégation des Sœurs de la Providence/Sisters of Providence

Congrégation des Sœurs de Sainte-Anne/Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Anne

Congrégation des Sœurs des Saints Noms de Jésus et de Marie (Généralat)/Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (General Administration)

Congrégation des Sœurs des Saints Noms de Jésus et de Marie (Provincialat)/Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (Quebec province)

Famille Internationale des Sœurs de la Miséricorde

Institut Notre-Dame du Bon-Conseil de Montréal

Sœurs Missionnaires Notre-Dame des Apôtres/Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles

L'Association des religieuses pour les droits des femmes

Les Filles de la Sagesse du Canada/Daughters of Wisdom, Canada

Les Oblates Franciscaines de Saint-Joseph

Les Sœurs de l'Assomption de la Sainte Vierge/Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin

Les Sœurs Grises de Montréal / The Grey Nuns of Montreal

Les Ursulines de l'Union canadienne/Ursulines of the Canadian Union

Réseau des répondantes diocésaines à la condition des femmes

Service Intercommunautaire d'Animation Franciscaine (SIAF)

Sœurs de Sainte-Croix/Sisters of Holy Cross

Sœurs de Saint-Joseph de Saint-Vallier

Sœurs des Saints-Cœurs de Jésus et de Marie/Sisters of the Holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary

Sœurs Missionnaires de Notre-Dame

d'Afrique/Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa



Solidarity Communities

Antoniennes de Marie	Religieuses de Jésus-Marie
Congrégation de Notre-Dame de Charité du Bon-Pasteur (Canada)	Religieux de Saint-Vincent-de-Paul
Congrégation des Sœurs des Saints Noms de Jésus et de Marie (Généralat)	Servantes de Notre-Dame Reine du Clergé
Congrégation Missionnaire de Mariannahill	Société de Marie Réparatrice
Congrégation du Très-Saint-Sacrement	Société des Missions Étrangères
Fédération des Monastères des Augustines de la Miséricorde de Jésus	Sœurs Auxiliatrices
Filles de la Providence	Sœurs de la Charité d'Ottawa
Filles de Marie-Auxiliatrice	Sœurs de la Charité de Québec
Filles de Marie-de-l'Assomption	Sœurs de la Charité Saint-Louis
Filles de Saint-Paul	Sœurs de Miséricorde de Montréal - L'Accueil Rosalie
Franciscaines Missionnaires de l'Immaculée-Conception	Sœurs de Notre-Dame-Auxiliatrice
Les Capucins du Québec	Sœurs de Notre-Dame du Bon-Conseil de Chicoutimi
Les Dominicaines de la Trinité	Sœurs de Saint-François d'Assise (Comité des dons)
Les Marianistes	Sœurs de Sainte-Chrétienne
Les Sœurs de Saint-Joseph de St-Vallier	Sœurs de Sainte-Croix
Les Trinitaires	Sœurs de Sainte-Jeanne d'Arc
Missionnaires du Saint-Esprit	Sœurs du Bon-Pasteur de Québec
Missionnaires Oblats de Marie-Immaculée	Sœurs Missionnaires de l'Immaculée-Conception
Ordre des Chanoines Réguliers de Prémontré	Sœurs Missionnaires de Notre-Dame des Anges
Petites Filles de Saint-François	Sœurs Servantes du Saint-Cœur de Marie
Petites Franciscaines de Marie	Laurentia St-André, s.n.j.m.

www.cathii.org

CATHII
January 2021
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