



Canadian Religious Stewardship - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Canadian Religious Stewardship Vision?

Canadian Religious Stewardship (CRS) was created to assist Religious across Canada to live their new realities in peace and tranquility.

What is the legal civil status of CRS?

CRS was established under Canadian law as a Registered Charity and a Not-for-Profit and Civil Corporation in 2008.

Does CRS have legal canonical status?

Yes. In addition to its Canadian legal status, CRS was granted the status of Public Juridic Person of Pontifical (PJP) right in 2010. It is the first PJP of its kind in the world.

How is CRS governed?

CRS is governed by an experienced Board of Directors composed of seven Religious and two lay persons. The Directors include:

- Chair, Sister Anne Lewans (OSU)
- Secretary/Treasurer, Fr. Chris Pulchny (OMI)
- Sr. Rita Larivee (SSA)
- Fr. Alain Rodrigue (CMM)
- Sr. Christine Gebel (OLM)
- Sr. Marlene Roy (CSJ)
- Fr. Ronald MacDonnell (SFM)
- Mr. Aurèle Foidart
- Mrs. Lauri Cabral
- Mrs. Danielle Dunleavy

Detailed background information on each of the Directors is available on the CRS website: www.crs-src.org

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What is a CRS participating entity and who are they?

The ten participating entities are the founding members of CRS. With the support and expertise of the late Fr. Francis Morrissey (OMI) the group petition CILCSAL for the creation of a Public Juridic Person of Pontifical right. The ten participating entities include:

- Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, Kingston, Ontario
- Missionnaires Oblats de Marie immaculée, Montréal, Québec
- Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, Longueuil, Québec
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada, London, Ontario
- Capuchin Order of Friars Minor, Province of Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd, Toronto, Ontario
- St John of God Brothers, Hamilton, Ontario
- Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns), Montreal, Québec
- Missionaries Oblates de St Boniface, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Ursulines of St Angela's Convent, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- Order of St Benedict, Muenster, Saskatchewan

Who is the Chair of the CRS Board?

Our current Chair is Sister Anne Lewans (OSU). She is also General Superior of the Ursulines of Prelate.

Why does the Chair of the Board need to be a Professed Religious Person?

To maintain its ability to act as a PJP of Pontifical Right the CRS Board Chair must be a professed Religious Person.

When was the CRS Board of Directors established?

On September 22, 2011 at a meeting of the Participating Entities the following Members and Board of Directors were appointed:

Faye Wylie (SGM) President
Marie Kelly (CSM)
Gloria Keylor (SP)
Sheila Langton (SP)
Edmond Paradis (OMI)
Brenda Phelan (RSM)
Christopher Pulchny (OMI)
Donna Rose (CND)
Mark Garczynski
Raymond Lafond



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On September 28, 2012 the following Directors were elected to the CRS Board:

Faye Wylie (SGM), Chair

Sheila Langton, (SP), Vice-Chair

Christopher Pulchny (OMI), Secretary Treasurer

Anne Lewans (OSU)

Frank Morrissey (OMI)

Brenda Phelan (RSM)

George Smith (CSB)

Who is CRS accountable to?

As a PJP CRS is responsible to the Holy See. CRS also works collaboratively with Bishops in diocese where CRS sponsored Religious Institutes exist. In addition, CRS abides by Canadian civil law.

How are CRS Board Directors selected?

To date the recruitment of Board Directors has been through referral. During its strategic planning process the Board reviews its skills matrix and other factors including: language, gender and geographical representation; and determines the specific skills, experience and knowledge required to carry on CRS's mission, vision and values.

Why are there lay person Directors on the CRS Board?

Vatican II brought to light the rights of the laity but also their role and their responsibilities. More recently, Pope Francis emphasized the laity's role in the Church and in the world.

The participation of lay persons on the CRS Board is becoming increasingly important as congregations have fewer members who are able to participate.

CRS has been successful in recruiting two high skilled, practicing Catholics who are committed to living the values, to support the mission, and who are committed to serving, to ensure Board continuity. The addition of laypersons to the Board is one of the strategies used by CRS to have the organization live beyond the transformation and completion of Religious Communities as we know them, and in many cases continue their charisms and ministries.

Does CRS offer services in both official languages?

Yes. CRS has capacity to provide services in both official languages.

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Who created CRS?

In February 2006 Brother Michael Maher (FSC), Director of Canadian Religious Administrative Services (CRASI Inc.), brought together a small group of Canadian Religious Institutes to Toronto, Ontario. The Taskforce explored ways to assist diminishing Religious Institutes in the management of their finances, investments, properties, ministries, as well as the civil and canonical leadership of their congregations and care of their members. The idea of an “umbrella” corporation emerged. Through the support and efforts of the ten Participating Entities CRS was created as a civil corporation and was granted the status of Pontifical PJP.

Why did it take over three years for CICLESAL to approve CRS?

The approval from CICLESAL required a tremendous amount of work from the original CRS Taskforce, and Fr. Francis Morrissey (OMI), over a three-year period. This was due in large part by the fact that CRS was the first Public Juridic Person of Pontifical Right.

Does CRS work outside of Canada?

CRS is committed to providing service and civil and canonical stewardship to Canadian Religious Institutes. However, when we can learn from, or be of assistance to other countries, we collaborate. Most recently we have provided advice and information to the United States, Australia and Ireland.

What approach does CRS take in delivering service?

CRS's success is built on its values: Collaboration, Reverence, Service and Stewardship. While Religious share many things in common like fewer members, an aging population and a diminishing availability of leaders, CRS recognizes the uniqueness of each Institute and strives to collaborate to develop tailor-made and practical solutions.

What services can I get from CRS?

Our job is to go where our communities need us most. We continue to build the infrastructure required to answer your call. CRS is grown from 1 staff person in 2019 to twenty employees in 2023 and to 30 employees in 2024. An additional Senior leader is expected to be in place in 2023. CRS has aligned itself with an experienced and dedicated team of experts that offers strategic planning, legacy planning, governance, human resources management, finance, health care, investments, communications, operations, administration, and both civil and canon law. In some cases, communities may need support in only one or two of these areas, such as having a care companion, or nurse, or an office manager.

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How does CRS Stewardship work?

In response to the growing demand, and for the next phase of congregations coming to completion, CRS stewards' Catholic apostolates through canonical sponsorship in agreement with diocesan and pontifical authorities. We strongly encourage congregations to contact CRS early in the planning stages as the legal requirements, both civil and canonical, can be complex and time consuming.

Does CRS currently have Stewardship agreements in place?

Yes. CRS stewards the Sisters of Saint Elizabeth of the Third Order of Saint Francis of Assisi, Our Lady's Missionaries, the Scarboro Foreign Missions, the Benedictines of Nanaimo, Sisters of Mission Services, the Loretto Sisters, the Ursilines of Prelate. CRS is collaborating with other Religious Institutes in the development of Stewardship Agreements.

How is CRS funded?

The Canadian Religious Administrative Services Inc. (CRASI) provided important seed money and a loan to start CRS. CRS is on schedule with its loan repayment to CRASI by 2025.

In addition, CRS is supported by:

- (i) a small percentage of the management fee paid by Religious investors in the CRS Fiera Balanced Ethical Fund (see CRS Fiera Balanced Ethical Fund Frequently Asked Questions on the CRS website)
- (ii) Fees for direct services provided.
- (iii) Small management fee (10%) for any of the 20 CRS staff providing services.

Who is able to access CRS Services and Stewardship?

Any Canadian Religious Institute is able to request assistance.

Where do we start if we want assistance from CRS?

Visit our website: crs-src.org or email our President & CEO Joanne Yelle-Weatherall at info@crs-src.org. CRS will set up a time to speak with you, to get to know you, to discuss your needs, and collaborate with you on how we may be able to support those needs. While all Religious Institutes are facing common challenges, CRS recognize that each is unique.

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Who are the CRS Senior Leadership?

CRS's President & CEO, Joanne Yelle-Weatherall was retained in September 2018. Joanne has a varied professional background including senior leadership roles in: emergency medical services (ambulance), long term care, Catholic health care, care of the elderly/palliative care and primary care research, transportation, environmental services, human resources and community care. Joanne works closely with the Board to deliver on CRS's promise to help Religious Institutes during transitions to live in peace and tranquility. She is a practicing Catholic and recognizes the privilege, the opportunity, and the gift CRS provides her to serve each Religious community in their unique selves.

Janet Ainslie - Director of Operations & CFO

Tina Yelle - Director of Human Resources & Communications

Lisa Ranger - Director of Strategy & Implementation



**Canadian
Religious
Stewardship**

**Soutien aux
religieux et
religieuses
du Canada**