

REPORT from

*ÉCOLE DE THÉOLOGIE ÉVANGÉLIQUE DU QUÉBEC (ETEQ)*¹ to
THE 2021 CONFERENCE OF THE WESTERN CANADIAN DISTRICT
OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE



Jean (John) Martin, President
May 2021

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A VERY LITTLE SCHOOL...

It was 1983 and a large Canadian Church family caught onto the importance of providing Quebec with its own French-language Theological and pastoral formation, right here at home. It would be no longer necessary for Québécois Christians to fill their suitcase for the long 3000 km trip into the wheat-filled Canadian Prairies to attend our very excellent *Canadian Bible College / Canadian Theological Seminary*, (later to become *Ambrose University*). The realization was not only that there would be ALLIANCE Theological education in Quebec, but that the Quebec Church would more and more be able to take such a responsibility upon itself, but **not without LOTS of help from its Western family of friends!** Within a few months of its birth, the Saint-Lawrence District would have a school to care for, one that would ensure solid Biblical, theological, pastoral and missiological training for both active and future Church leadership. From the very start of the District, our first Superintendent Jesse Jespersen, **a Western Canadian District missionary** to French Africa and then Quebec, had this set in his heart as in stone. As should any visionary leader, he saw already *then* the Church of today. So began the history of Alliance Theological Education in Quebec, *en français*, a history which still needs to be written in a systematic and edifying manner. One thing is forever clear: the Western Canadian District has played a critical and generous role from the very start till today.

Through the years, our humble mission and *little* school would have *great* names such as (from 1983 to 1987) *Enseignement Théologique de l'Alliance au Québec (ETAQ)* and (from 1999 to 2016) *Institut Biblique VIE (Vérité – Intégration – Expérience)*. It would mature in wisdom and outreach to become a school set today within a rich network of strategic ecclesiastical and educational partnerships. Under its present name of *École de Théologie Évangélique du Québec (ETEQ)*, today our little-school-that-

¹ <https://www.eteq.ca/d8/en>

became-not-so-little has over 100 students studying at the Bachelor, Masters and next autumn the Doctorate levels under the teaching of 23 teachers who in very great part hold a doctorate in Theology as well pastor in the Montreal area. In fact, the growth, the vision and the Quebec opportunities that our school developed were such that God led it to find itself a *second parent*, one that had the same passion for Quebec missions as its first parent. Since 2016, our Alliance school belongs both to the Alliance Church as well as to the Mennonite Brethren Church which in fact had preceded the Alliance in Quebec Theological education.

... THAT GREW, GREW AND GREW...

While today there are many differences between the newborn Quebec Alliance school of the mid-eighties (which was an extension of Canadian Bible College) and our «adult» school of the 2020's, what has not changed is by far more significant:

- ☑ Still the same heart for (and submission to) the written Word of God
- ☑ Still the same joy and passion to serve the Alliance family and its local Churches
- ☑ Still the same determination to make a difference in *how* the Gospel is proclaimed, understood and lived-out here in Quebec as well as across the French-speaking world.

All this is encapsulated in our 8 guiding values as a school:

*** **Faithfulness** to Scripture *** Academic **rigour** *** **Transformation** of both individuals and Faith communities *** **Service** in view of the common good *** Authentic **Community** based on humble listening and dialogue *** **Openness** to others in their differentness *** Quebec **culture** as a reality to be respected but also to influence *** **Partnership** as the pathway towards fruitful Evangelical mission

Since 1983, our number of partners has greatly increased, not the least being the Theology department of our «very-own» *Université Laval* by which Evangelicals now offer university Theological Education from «inside» society rather than doing it from the «outside». Clearly, as was with our Saviour, the Church is not *of* this world (John 17:6). However, it has been taken *from* the world to be sent back *into* this world to manifest both the King and his Kingdom. ETEQ has chosen to serve a Church that wants to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14), a Church that sits on the top of the hill so as to be both heard and seen. We prepare men and women to *visibly* serve and lead in the name of Christ.

The growth our school has undergone can be seen in both the number of **students** and the number of **teachers**. However, growth lags behind in our number of **donors**.

...TO THE POINT OF OUT-GROWING ITS DONOR BASE

As with any school, our Quebec Alliance school's spiritual and educational health is very dependent on its financial health. Over the last 24 months, ETEQ has undergone significant and sacrificial restructuring which has reduced our expenses. However, the challenge that remains ever-present is to raise an army of supporters (Alliance Churches and individuals from across Canada) committed to this unique mission, for the medium and long-term. Almost without exception, each Church in the Saint-

Lawrence District has Theologically-trained pastoral leadership. Tomorrow’s Alliance Churches also need leadership tested and prepared by way of quality Biblical and pastoral education. We are very much working to see every Quebec Alliance Church and every one of their disciples make the support of ETEQ a lasting priority. ETEQ will be able to continue to offer the present range of quality programmes only if a revival of generosity grips at the heart of our Saint-Lawrence District Churches and believers. However, we still very much need the support of our more mature and missional Churches of the Western Canadian District. While thousands of kilometers separate us, our Alliance family across Canada remain essential partners in this enterprise which continues to be carried by a committed but still small and relatively young Quebec Church.

The multiplication of financial partners (people, Churches, businesses) has become ETEQ’s priority.

During 2021 and into the future, the invitation stands for you to make ETEQ part of your joyful generosity. Work with us to make disciples of our nation and those within the global, French-speaking world. Why not give, perhaps for the first time, before our June 30 year-end?

ETEQ DONORS IN 2020			OUR PRAYER AND NEED IN 2021	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
Churches	18	\$ 21 184	27 (+50%)	\$ 30 000
Individuals	112	\$164 001	150 (+33%)	\$220 000
Businesses	3	\$ 16 200	6 (+100%)	\$ 35 000
TOTAL		\$201 385		\$ 285 000



Our 2019 graduating class along with professors

Join us via ZOOM on Sunday May 30, 1:00 P.M. **MONTREAL TIME (or 11:00 A.M. Mountain time!)** for our 2021 graduation. So what if it is 85% in French! The Spirit of God will help you rejoice with us! Checkout [our website](#) for the ZOOM link or write to me (jean.martin@eteq.ca) for details.

In **Appendix 1**, you are provided with a **Financial Summary of the year ending June 30, 2020**. Our reduction in personnel, along with the pandemic that led to the reduction of certain normal expenses as well as some federal salary subsidies we qualified for in 2020, **combined with a growth in both tuition and giving**, have together produced for the first time a 1-month, operating, emergency fund. What a HUGE blessing this is in a context where ETEQ is committed to so many partners, Churches, students, teachers and personnel. We are still far from the recommended 3-month emergency fund, but it sure is a blessing to live with a little less financial stress (but just as much faith)!

God is good. And so are his children!

In the Lord Jesus, it is such a joy for me to continue to serve my Church family, via ETEQ.

Jean (John) Martin, President
May 3, 2021

Appendix 1 (next page)

REPORT

BY ÉCOLE DE THÉOLOGIE ÉVANGÉLIQUE DU QUÉBEC (ETEQ)
TO THE WESTERN CANADIAN DISTRICT
OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

Jean (John) Martin, President
May 2021

Appendix 1

**12-MONTH FINANCIAL SUMMARY
ENDING JUNE 30, 2020²**

(numbers have been rounded-off to closest thousand)

<u>REVENUES</u>		\$ 778 000
Student tuition	164 000	
Sale of books and course readings	14 000	
Canadian Alliance Canada subsidy	129 000	
Saint-Lawrence District Subsidy	15 000	
Mennonite Brethren Canada	179 000	
Donations (including 15 000\$ from CP Trust ³)	201 000	
Federal salary subsidies March-June (COVID-19)	62 000	
Other	14 000	
<u>EXPENSES</u>		\$ 778 000
Salary and employee benefits	495 000	
Rent and electricity	153 000	
Team development and formation	3 000	
Public relations	4 000	
Pedagogical material and resources	11 000	
Student services and events	7 000	
Administrative costs (janitor, photocopies, supplies, mailings, etc.)	37 000	
Contribution to EMERGENCY FUND	68 000	

² Our complete financial statements of June 30, 2020 are available to any Alliance Church by simple request to the ETEQ president.

³ Christian Publications Trust of the Western Canadian District.