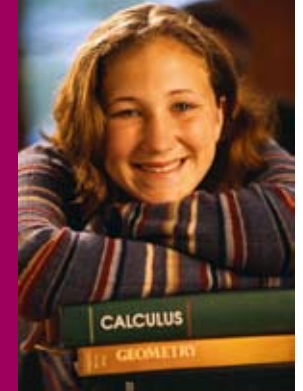




Canadian Hallmarks
I N S T I T U T E

1



Canadian Hallmarks Institute
PO Box 81051 RPO Fiddlers Green Postal Outlet
Ancaster ON • L9G 4X1
www.hallmarksinstitute.ca

Canadian Hallmarks Institute

Frequently Asked Questions

Accredited Schools:

2



- ✓ **AYLMER** • Immanuel Christian School
- ✓ **CHATHAM** • Chatham Christian School
- ✓ **FRUITLAND** • John Knox Christian School
- ✓ **GEORGETOWN** • Georgetown District Christian School
- ✓ **HAMILTON** • Calvin Christian School
- ✓ **KITCHENER** • Laurentian Hills Christian School
- ✓ **LISTOWEL** • Listowel Christian School
- ✓ **OAKVILLE** • John Knox Christian School
- ✓ **SARNIA** • Sarnia Christian School
- ✓ **SMITHVILLE** • Covenant Christian School
- ✓ **TRENTON** • Trenton Christian School



3

Canadian Hallmarks Institute



Who is CHI?

1

CHI is a professional organization designed to help independent schools monitor and improve academic performance through public standards.

Where did it come from?

2

In 1994, the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS) Board commissioned a special committee to provide some advice on the school quality matter. The committee reported that quality was a major factor in school credibility and that this could be enhanced with a broader organization. In response, the OACS encouraged the creation of Canadian Hallmarks Institute (CHI), as a parallel to Canadian Educational

Standards Institute (CESI). From its inception, CHI was intended for use across Canada.

In the late 1990's the Conservative government began to push the accountability agenda and raise the profile of accountability strategies. So CHI fit neatly into an arms-length, quality control philosophy current at the time.

Initially the decision was made to merge the service by CHI and OACS. The services provided operated in that fashion for a couple of years. In 2005, it was decided to separate the functions and to extend CHI's services beyond the Christian schools, but retaining its inclusive approach to faith orientations.

3

To whom is CHI accountable?

CHI has a Board, Management Council and Academic Council with members from Canada and the United States. The CHI brochure identifies the members, their experience and where they came from.

CHI standards embody the current professional judgment on what constitutes a good elementary school in the independent sector in North America. The councils are accountable to the client for a fair and honest assessment of the educational practices. CHI is independent of any and all government involvement or funding but does maintain relationships with other accrediting agencies.

Who or what drives it from behind?

4

With choice available to parents, they are interested in value for their money. The public in general is demanding "proof" that the schools their children attend are meeting strong educational standards. Knowing that an independent organization has assessed the school against well-founded educational standards gives them better information on which to make decisions.

For Ontario, Dr. Adrian Guldemon anticipated the accountability movement as he watched educational issues unfold across the continent resulting in the creation of the *Equality in Education Tax Credit* (EETC) by the Ontario Government in 2001.

Canadian Hallmarks
INSTITUTE

It's useful to go through
an evaluation process, but
at the end, does anyone
recognize the certificate?

5

Between 2003 and 2007, CHI has successfully accredited six schools in Ontario. Further research has been commissioned to ensure that CHI standards compare favourably to the best practices of other accreditation agencies.

Two major benefits of the certificate relate to the school's community itself.

- A school's claim to parents about the quality of its educational program will have support from an independent, well-qualified educational organization.
- The efforts of the community to attain high educational standards will be affirmed.



Establishing Public Standards for Independent Schools