

Collège de secrétariat Notre-Dame

Notre Dame Secretarial College
or "The Mother House"

In 1907, aware that it should be possible for young women to find work in sectors other than manufacturing, the Congrégation de Notre-Dame opened its first "commercial class." In the Grade 8 classroom of Saint Charles School in Pointe Saint-Charles, Sister Saint Catherine of the Rosary (Ann Maria Cooke) taught typing to five teenage girls.

In 1909, the newly established bilingual École d'enseignement supérieur/Notre Dame Ladies College located in the 3040 Sherbrooke Street mother house and affiliated with Université Laval, invited the "commercial class" to become part of this educational institution. In addition to typing, the business and commercial section offered such courses as Bookkeeping, Commercial Geography, Stenography and Indexing and Filing. Aware of the school's high standards of excellence, firms were quick to offer its graduates fulfilling and well-remunerated positions.

In 1922, the École d'enseignement supérieur/Notre Dame Ladies College became affiliated with the newly established Université de Montréal. In 1926, the Commerce section became an independent school retaining the name Notre Dame Ladies College, while the Superior School moved to a new building on Westmount Avenue and took the name Collège Marguerite-Bourgeoys.

In 1935, Notre Dame Ladies College changed its name to Notre Dame Secretarial School. Because it was housed in the Congregation's mother house, the school became better known throughout its long history as "The Mother House." It was incorporated in 1966. In 1969, in keeping with the new educational trends following the Parent Report, a new in-house curriculum was developed. As a result, the enrollment increased and additional space was required to allow further growth. In 1970, the school was transferred to the former quarters of the Normal School across from the mother house. In 1972, after three years of negotiations, the Ministry of Education granted the institution college-level status (CÉGEP).

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COLLÈGE MOTHER HOUSE



Your Gateway to a Successful Career



Sister Joyce Roberts, CND

In 1980, Quebec's newly adopted Bill 101 made it necessary for the public institution to change its name to Collège de secrétariat Notre-Dame/Notre Dame Secretarial College.

Clearly, the accelerated pace of modern innovation and technology in the business world was catching up and even surpassing the school, for which the high cost of upgrading computers and software had a serious impact. After exploring every avenue, it was decided that the institution would close at the end

of the 1996-1997 school year.

Two lay teachers of the College made courageous efforts to keep it running as Collège Mother House until 2008.

In its 90 years of existence, through its quality of education, Notre Dame Secretarial College prepared thousands of women to take their rightful place in society and in the business world.



Sister Patricia Landry, CND