



EDMONTON  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

## **News Release**

For immediate release, December 18, 2002

### **Board of Trustees Ratifies ATA Collective Agreement**

Edmonton Catholic Schools Board of Trustees has voted unanimously to approve the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Collective Agreement. Last night the ATA membership voted 60.5 per cent in favor of the contract.

The agreement gives teachers a 14.09 per cent increase over two years, with a zero per cent increase in the third year, 2003 – 2004. The increase will be phased in over the first two years.

“Children in Edmonton Catholic Schools are the ultimate winners in this settlement,” said Charlie Koester, Board Chairman and representative on the negotiations committee. “Our teachers told us the importance of maintaining the 1400 instructional minutes. We heard them. We told the teachers that the Board needed to maintain classroom size and to live within our means. They heard us. This is a win-win situation that works for all parties.”

Koester went on to say that the issues of class size and instructional minutes will not go away. “We will have to address them, because they will not go away unless the provincial government funds education to the level that will allow boards to meet the needs of all of our students.”

The agreement is retroactive to September 1, 2001.

- 30 -

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