



## **News Release**

**For immediate release,  
March 19, 2003**

### **Edmonton Catholic Schools Cancels International Field Trip**

In light of the uncertain world situation, Edmonton Catholic Schools has cancelled a field trip that was scheduled to leave Thursday morning for Orlando, Florida.

The 19 students and six supervisors (which included coaches, teachers and parents) were heading to Orlando for a cheerleading competition. They were scheduled to return on Monday, March 24.

“Our District’s most precious resource is our students,” said Dr. Dale Ripley, Superintendent of Edmonton Catholic Schools. Dr. Ripley went on to say ‘The District embraces its responsibility for the safety of our staff and students.’”

In making this difficult decision, senior administration took into consideration a number of factors. Yesterday school boards received a letter from Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Learning that strongly encouraged all jurisdictions to review any trips involving students, especially those that included stops or travel to the United States. As well, the trip was past the 48 hour American deadline; the American military took action in Iraq today; and the field trip destination of Disneyworld – where the students were going to be staying – has been identified as a potential terrorist target.

“We thank the Minister of Learning for the sound advice he provided to school boards which was of great assistance to us in making this difficult decision,” said Charlie Koester, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. “We know students will be disappointed, but are convinced that this decision is in the best interests of staff, students and parents who would have been on this trip.

Edmonton Catholic Schools staff and students continue to pray for an immediate peaceful resolution to this conflict.

#### **For more information contact:**

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