



EDMONTON  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

## **News Release**

For immediate release,  
January 12, 2004

### **Public Consultation Approved for Relocation of English Program**

At tonight's regular board meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the consultation process for consideration of relocating the English program at Father Leo Green Elementary School to St. Dominic Elementary for September, 2004.

At the moment, Father Leo Green has 236 students in their French Immersion program and as of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 104 students in the English program. There are only 70 students projected to be in the English program for next year.

"We know this is difficult for any school community," said Dr. Dale Ripley, Superintendent of Schools. "However, we have some very serious concerns about our ability to offer a quality educational program in a school that is looking like it is going to be so small," Dr. Ripley added.

Each year a review is completed of all schools in the district in an effort to continue providing the best educational opportunities for all students and ensure the continued viability of all schools. The City of Edmonton growth projections and neighborhood development plans were taken into consideration and determined a continued decline in the English program at Father Leo Green.

"This is a very difficult decision for the Board," said Charlie Koester, Edmonton Catholic Schools Board Chairperson. "But it's important to keep in mind that the approval for public consultation does not necessarily mean the English program will move from Father Leo Green," Charlie Koester went on to say. "This is just the first step in the process."

A public consultation forum will be held at Father Leo Green on March 23. Final recommendations will be given to the Board of Trustees at their public meeting, Monday, April 26.

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

Lori Nagy  
Media Relations  
Edmonton Catholic Schools  
(780) 441-6189