



EDMONTON
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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News Release

Edmonton Catholic School Board Responds to Alberta's Commission on Learning

In its response to 'The Report of Alberta's Commission on Learning,' the Edmonton Catholic Board of Trustees applauded the work of the Commission for its forward-thinking and comprehensive review of the education system. An Ad Hoc committee of three trustees, Ron Zapisocki (Ward 2), Debbie Cavaliere (Ward 4) and Janice Sarich (Ward 2) compiled the response on behalf of the Board. At their regular meeting this evening, the Board adopted the response as their official position on the commission's recommendations.

In their 50-page response, the Board focused on 50 key recommendations selected by the Board of Trustees, summarized the Board's response to all 95 Learning Commission recommendations, commented on the Government of Alberta responses and outlined ten areas of priority:

1. Catholic Education Issues
2. Aboriginal Learning
3. Special Needs
4. Class Size/Composition
5. English as a Second Language
6. Infrastructure
7. Professional Learning Communities
8. Technology
9. Collective Bargaining
10. Funding

"It is our belief that a Catholic response to the recommendations of the Learning Commission needs to be attentive to the social teaching of the Catholic Church," said Ron Zapisocki, Ad Hoc Committee Chair. "It is also important to recognize," Zapisocki went on to say, "that Alberta provides parents with choice in education, including the choice of Catholic education. We believe this system of choice is affirmed by the report of the Learning Commission."

The Board's response will now be forwarded to Alberta's Commission on Learning as well as the Honorable Dr. Lyle Oberg, Alberta Minister of Learning.

"The Board of Trustees will continue to lobby the Government of Alberta for additional funding in a number of areas including special needs education, continued support of Aboriginal programs, class size improvement, class composition and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs, said Ron Zapisocki. "There is no finer investment for any society than giving its children and youth the gift of an excellent education," he added.

The Board of Trustee's response to the Alberta Commission on Learning can be found on the Edmonton Catholic School District web site at: www.ecsd.net

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