



EDMONTON  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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## News Release

### **Edmonton Catholic School Board Responds to Castledowns MLA's Concerns**

The Edmonton Catholic School Board of Trustees is responding to allegations that the Board did not act appropriately when making a decision to move a proposed high school for Castledowns to their ten year Capital Plan. The 2006-2016 three and ten year Capital Plan was approved at the Board's public meeting Monday night.

"A proposed high school for Castledowns was placed on our last Capital Plan after reviewing detailed information from the City of Edmonton and our own enrolment data. The Capital Plan is reviewed every year as new data becomes available. Our new data shows us that it would be completely inappropriate to build a school for 800 students in an area that could not support it. It is our moral obligation to make decisions that will use government funding wisely," said Debbie Engel, Board Chairperson.

The approved Capital Plan places a proposed high school for Castledowns in the priorities for the district's ten year plan. The school had previously been placed in the second year of the 2004-2007 Capital Plan but was moved when a review of the Draft City of Edmonton Population Forecast to 2030 and Edmonton Catholic Schools enrolment data showed that Castledowns students in Grades 6, 9 and 10 were not increasing at the earlier predicted rate. In addition, Edmonton Catholic Schools enrolment data for a three year period from September 30, 2002 to September 30, 2004 shows a **decrease** of 53 students for Grades 6, 9 and 10. These are our future high school students that would be attending the Castledowns high school and therefore shows us the need is continuing to decrease.

The projected number of high school students in the Castledowns high school attendance area decreased by 437 students according to information in the Draft 2004 Edmonton Population and Employment Forecast compared with the data in the same report of March 2002. Data for 2010 contained in the same report shows a continued decline, this time by 308 high school students in the Castledowns high school attendance area.

As well, enrolment in Catholic High schools that serve the Castledowns high school area has also decreased by almost 200 students in 2002 to September of 2004. These high schools are Archbishop O'Leary, St. Joseph and Archbishop MacDonald.

"It's also very important that residents in Ward 2 know that the Board of Trustees is responding to the needs of schools in that area. A total of **61%** of the dollars for modernization and new school construction projects in 2006-2007 is slated for Ward 2," Debbie Engel went on to say.

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