



EDMONTON
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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News Release

Edmonton Catholic School District Clarifies Concerns with the Plant, Operation and Maintenance Budget

The Edmonton Catholic School District has received information from the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE) web site about concerns the union has with the layoff of custodians a year and a half ago. The District shares this concern.

The District receives funding annually from Alberta Infrastructure. For the past three years, the Board of Trustees has lobbied government with concerns on the province's flawed funding formula used to determine the budget allocation. The current funding formula for Plant Operation and Maintenance funding is based upon the entire school, including all non-instructional space such as hallways, stairwells, and mechanical rooms. The district believes that only instructional space should be used in the formula calculation.

A major discrepancy exists when comparing funding on a per square meter basis. Because of our utilization rate, we receive fewer dollars each year than other school districts, yet our costs are comparable as all school districts.

In addition, funding shortfalls have resulted in the following:

- Maintenance is being deferred, level of cleanliness in schools is being reduced, energy management initiatives are being put on hold because of this shortfall.
- Staff reductions through layoffs and attrition (36 less positions over the last year and a half) have occurred to address this decrease in funding.

“Alberta Infrastructure is expected to announce our funding allotment in June and we are hopeful that the government has been listening to our concerns and will give us the additional funding to maintain the level of custodial service we have. We encourage all staff and all stakeholders to approach the government in support of appropriate funding for our school facilities,” said Debbie Engel, Chairperson for the Board of Trustees.

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For more information contact:

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