



For Immediate Release, November 12, 2007

## Student Information Theft

The Edmonton Catholic School District was notified last week that one of the five bus carriers contracted to transport students to and from school, had personal information of numerous students stolen.

R.L. Smith Transportation Inc. notified the District on the afternoon of November 5<sup>th</sup> that the purse of one of its employees, containing a memory stick with student information, had been stolen. The employee left the memory stick in her purse in the trunk of her car, which was stolen. When the car was recovered, the purse and its contents were missing. R. L. Smith indicated that a back-up copy of information was routinely sent home with an employee as part of their data security process. The Edmonton Police Service is investigating the theft. The employee is no longer with the bus carrier.

The names, addresses and phone numbers of 560 Kindergarten, Hand in Hand program and Special Needs students of the Edmonton Catholic School District were on the memory stick. Letters have been sent home to all affected parents, and additional security methods have been put into place. The District has requested that, effective immediately, bus carriers will not allow employees to transport any personal information of clients outside their office. Four of the five bus carriers have implemented the new security process and the fifth carrier is reviewing their insurance policy and will respond to the District's request early this week. All information must now be encrypted on memory sticks and also password protected.

The safety of all children is our first priority at Edmonton Catholic Schools and we have the same high expectations of our bus carriers. In contracts with bus carriers, the District legally requires that the bus carriers and their employees treat all personal information as confidential and abides by the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The District has also advised the Office of the Privacy Commissioner and will seek their advice and direction.

For more information call:

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The Edmonton Catholic School District has over 32,000 students and every day, over 6,700 students are transported to and from school by yellow school bus.

### For additional information contact:

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