



For Immediate Release, January 16, 2008

## **Board Ratifies Agreement between ATA and ECSD**

At a special public Board meeting today, Trustees ratified the agreement between the Edmonton Catholic Teachers Local #54 and the Edmonton Catholic School District. Late yesterday teachers voted 98.3% in favor of the agreement which is retroactive to September 1, 2007 and goes until August 31, 2012.

The new agreement includes improvement to benefits and compassionate leaves which were two issues raised during negotiations. Once the ATA and provincial government's pension agreement is approved, this settlement will provide for a 3% increase in salary and a reduction of 3.1% in teacher contributions to the pension plan.

A condition of the Pension Agreement is the requirement for collective agreements between Alberta's 62 publicly elected school boards and local teacher bargaining units, to be in place prior to January 31, 2008.

"We are extremely pleased with the support teachers have shown for this agreement," said Board Chairperson Cindy Olsen. "This agreement ensures our focus remains in the classroom helping students succeed," Olsen went on to say.

Shannon McElroy, President of the Edmonton Catholic Teachers Local stated, "With a 98 percent acceptance of the Local's memorandum of agreement with the Board, our teachers are pleased with both this and the pension agreement, and will be extremely disappointed should the provincial initiative fail."

The Edmonton Catholic School District has over 2,240 teachers, and approximately 50% took part in yesterday's vote.

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