



Letter to the Editor – Edmonton Journal
February 9, 2017

I wish to offer my thoughts in response to the recent idea of Edmonton Public School Board Chair, Mr. Janz. In his blog, recent editorials, and on CHED radio, Mr. Janz indicates that his goal and vision is to provide fiscally responsible public education that is “competitive, responsive, and inclusive; that welcomes everyone.” Additionally, he mentions that innovation is essential and that by adding Catholic classes to EPSB, he could achieve his goals. I agree with his claim that Catholic Education provides all of the attributes he desires and more.

With growing enrolments, excellent high school completion rates, and excellent Rutherford Scholarship eligibility, it is no wonder that the demand for quality Catholic education in Edmonton and across the province is high. Minister Eggen concurs that the existing separate system is of high quality. In fact, the internationally recognized success of Alberta’s publicly funded education system, which includes both public and separate jurisdictions, can be credited to the fact that parents are given choice in how they want their children to be educated.

Adding a Catholic religion class to a public school does not constitute a Catholic education. We are richer and stronger as a society because of our diversity. Let us continue to respect this.

Laura Thibert
Board Chair
Edmonton Catholic Schools