

October 25, 2011

For Immediate Release

EICS Board Releases 2011 – 2012 Budget Update

Sherwood Park, AB – At the October 19, 2011 Regular Meeting, the Elk Island Catholic Schools Board of Trustees released details of its updated 2011-2012 budget, following Premier Redford's announcement that funding cut from education in February would be restored. When the Government of Alberta announced its 2011 budget in February, significant grant reductions resulted in a \$107 million loss of funding to education.

Education Minister Lukaszuk advised school authorities that the \$107 million would be returned to jurisdictions across the province over a seven month period. Minister Lukaszuk also stated that \$80 million in additional funding support would be provided to jurisdictions through increases to the grants.

Elk Island Catholic Schools was notified on October 14, 2011 that its share of the reinstated funding is \$1,165,817.00. Division administration, along with school administrators, is working to ensure that this additional funding continues to support the ongoing educational needs of students within the Division.

"Our 2011-2012 budget was very challenging due to a range of factors and constraints in addition to the significant grant reductions" said Board Chair Tony Sykora. "Our Board of Trustees appreciates the Government restoring the funds cut from education this spring. However, until the inequities of the provincial Funding Framework are addressed and predictable, sustainable funding for education is put into place, we will continue to be in a vulnerable position."

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EICS, part of Alberta's publicly funded education system, is committed to developing educational opportunities in the context of Gospel values. EICS is dedicated to providing quality, faith-based learning environments to students of any background and faith, where their skills are nurtured and celebrated by dedicated, caring staff.

For more information or to request an interview, please contact:

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