

THE CATHOLIC DIMENSION

*Speaking of Catholic Education in
Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon*

Published by the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association

Summer 2018

Former ACSTA President

Adriana LaGrange, Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools

June 11, 2018

"In truth I tell you, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands and somebody else will put a belt around you and take you where you would rather not go." **John 21:18**

After much prayer and discernment, on May 25th I resigned from my position as president of ACSTA effective June 10, 2018. I can now share with you that it was one of the most difficult decisions I have ever had to make, as it has been one of the greatest honours of my life to serve as president of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association these past three terms. The reason for my early departure is that I feel God calling me to new political journey in provincial politics. In turn, I have also turned down the nomination to the position of president of the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association this past weekend at the CCSTA AGM. I will continue to represent Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools as a trustee for the near future.

While I would have preferred to fulfill the remainder of my term, the need to make a decision regarding the CCSTA presidency and subsequently the decision to pursue this new political adventure highlighted to me that I could no longer remain apolitical in my role as ACSTA president. Rather than risk any adverse effects on ACSTA, I felt it best to resign as soon as appropriate.

I therefore respectfully ask for your understanding of my decision to resign, knowing that my heart and my prayers will always be with all of you as you continue to celebrate, pre-serve, promote and enhance Catholic Education.

I am confident that our new ACSTA president, Serena Shaw, will enjoy the same level of respect, co-operation, collaboration and friendship that I have been so very blessed to have been gifted these past few years.

Again thank you for your tremendous passion and support for Catholic Education!!

Your Servant in Christ,
Adriana LaGrange



"Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." **Ephesians 6:14-20**



New ACSTA President

Serena Shaw, Greater St. Albert RCSSD

I am very excited serving as the new President of ACSTA. I am blessed to be married to Graham for almost 23 years with two beautiful girls aged 20 and 17. I was first elected as a Trustee in 2013 and have served as Chair for Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools for the last two years. In addition, I have been director for ACSTA for the past 2^{1/2} years and Chair of the Advocacy committee for the past 2 years. I serve the St. Albert Parish and volunteer at St. Albert Parish as Coordinator of Music and Young Adults. In February, I became an Oblate Associate. This is a Lay person that promises to live their life with the Charism of the Oblates of Mary

Immaculate, serving the poor and marginalized. In addition, I was Chair of the Special Events Committee with St. Albert National Special Olympic Winter Games in 2012 and volunteered on the Community Services Advisory Board with the City of St. Albert for three years during which time I served a Chair and Vice Chair.

I am happy to say that I am one course away from having my Certificate in Catholic Trusteeship and a Certificate in Liturgy and Youth Evangelization from Newman Theological College.

I am very excited in my new role and feel the weight of responsibility as President of the ACSTA. This is a pivotal time in Catholic education needing to speak with one voice advocating so that people can understand the value of Catholic education in a 21st century society. I am confident that Catholic education will continue to thrive as we have a good coach, God. Blessings to all!!

CONGRATS *to Evergreen Catholic Schools*



Congratulations to Evergreen Catholic Schools for raising, per pupil, the largest amount for CCSTA's Toonies for Tuition campaign.

Thanks for sharing gift of Catholic education to others!

Paul Bourassa Welcomed as Alberta/NWT/ Yukon Rep for CCSTA Board of Directors

Published by CCSTA: 23 January 2018

When Paul Bourassa talks about how he first became a Catholic school trustee six years ago, he has two things to say about it: he signed on by default and he is so happy he did.

“There was an email circulated to the parents of the Catholic Francophone schools asking for candidates to be trustees as the incumbent had stepped down. When the first email came, I hoped someone would step up. When the second email came because no one had stepped up, I discussed it with my wife and whether I could make the time commitment,” he explains. “After that discussion, I put my name forward and have never regretted it. I have input and influence over my children’s and all our children’s education which is great responsibility and honour. I have no regrets.”

Since putting his name in, he’s served as a Catholic trustee for Conseil scolaire FrancoSud and he’s continued his involvement with Catholic education.

Paul joined the Alberta Catholic Schools Trustees’ Association’s Board of Directors and recently came on as Vice President. Prior to the New Year, he joined CCSTA as the Alberta representative.

While he’s been in the trustee role for six years, Paul’s relationship with Catholic education started long ago.

“I attended separate schools from kindergarten to Grade 12,” he says, adding that his elementary school days were primarily completed in Regina while he graduated from Bishop Grandin High School in Calgary.

Later in life, he got married and had three daughters.

When he and his wife – who is Anglican and attended public school in Ontario – made the decision to send their children to separate school, his wife, admittedly, had some hesitations.

“But when our oldest came home one day and was talking about Jesus and him being in our hearts, my wife was over the moon and so pleased that I seem to recall her eyes welled up a bit,” Paul says.

When he’s not wearing his trustee hat, Paul is a Federal Crown Prosecutor. Currently on sabbatical this year



from his job, Paul’s explored new ways to use his knowledge. Hired as an advisor to Zimbabwe with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Paul works with communities to help provide legal support and knowledge. While there this past December, Paul brought over school supplies, shoes and soccer balls – donated by Catholic school groups in Alberta – and passed them along to two local organizations, including an orphanage.

“The experience has been phenomenal,” he tells CCSTA while driving in a snowstorm to Edmonton, where he planned to attend a debate on Catholic education hosted by the University of Alberta Law School.

With a demanding job, a busy family and commitments to volunteer roles, Paul says he works hard to keep the balance.

“We have a lot of balls in the air, and some days I do a lot of things at the edge of my desk,” he says. “With regard to family, that has to be key and has to come first. If there’s not a strong relationship with them, then everything else falls apart.”

When it comes to fulfilling his passion for Catholic education, he’s clear on what it means to him, his family and community.

“I believe in Catholic education. It has a certain ‘je ne sais quoi,’” he says. “The importance of Catholic education is [that] it is education with a difference.”

Now that he’s a part of the CCSTA Board of Directors, Paul says he’s looking forward to the national-based involvement.

“I am looking to the mutual support to further Catholic education and fend off those who attack Catholic education,” he explains. “The future of Catholic education is pluralistic. We are welcoming and caring and inclusive, but we still need to do more.”



Bill 24:

Student Rights vs Parental Rights



Submitted by: Anna Loparco, Partner, Dentons Canada LLP

Bill 24, the NDP government's legislation to amend the *School Act*, makes it illegal for publicly-funded schools to inform parents if their child joins a Gay Straight Alliance ("GSA"):

http://www.assembly.ab.ca/net/index.aspx?p=bills_status&selectbill=024&legl=29&session=3.

The *School Act* was amended by Bill 24 in several ways, including, to:

- require the immediate establishment of a GSA or the holding of an activity if requested;
- require the designation of a staff member to be a liaison within a reasonable period of time; and
- limit parental notification to the fact that a GSA is established or activity is taking place but not that any particular child has joined.

ACSTA believes that the general intent of Bill 24 is commendable. Catholic schools have long encouraged GSA's in accordance with its LIFE Framework so that children identifying with LBGTQ2S+A or who have sexual/gender identity questions have a safe place to meet. In keeping with its mandate to permeate catholicity in all aspects of school, separate school administrators take a faith-guided approach to assisting students in understanding and dealing with their challenges.

However, Bill 24, while seeking to improve the lives of children, requires clarification in order to avoid putting children and their families at risk. Bill 24 must take a holistic child-centered approach by balancing child and parental rights. A few issues have been identified, which ACSTA is working with Alberta Education to clarify.

Parental Notification

The most important issue is whether Bill 24 is too broad in restricting all disclosure to parents as it does not address the situation of imminent harm. Thus, it is not clear whether the child's participation in a GSA (and any related personal information revealed from the participation) can be disclosed to a parent/guardian where there is an imminent risk of harm to a child (psychological or physical) that is related to the child's gender/sexual identity. Section 4 of the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* states: "Any person who has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a child is in need of intervention shall forthwith report the matter to a director". However, this does not provide an answer to whether disclosure is permitted in a situation of imminent harm. Further, the notification requirement is to the director and not to the parent/guardian. The main concern is that, for example, if a child is suicidal or being bullied, professional treatment, therapy and/or emergency intervention services may be required immediately. Without parental notification in such circumstances, which would necessarily require the disclosure of all personal information, the obligation to care for the child falls on the school. It appears that this is an unintended consequence of the legislation as this would require the school to step in the shoes of the guardian and take on the risk and liability of the child's well-being. In such circumstances, in order to provide effective and comprehensive supports to the child, the full context of the child's situation must be shared with the parents, who can then be supported by the school to seek appropriate help for the child. Bill 24 needs to be amended in a way that ensures that in critical situations where harm

is possible, parents are provided all relevant personal information about the child so that the proper and tailored professional services can be obtained without delay.

Secondly, section 50.1(1) of the *School Act* requires that parents receive notification from the school board when their child is involved in a course of study that deals with religion or human sexuality. Bill 24 amends this part of the *School Act* to exempt parental notification when it pertains to GSAs. This is of potential concern to some parents if the club or activity would expose a student to sexual or other content that is contrary to Catholic values. Separate schools take the position that the parent is the primary educator of their child. Bill 24 therefore diminishes the parents' Charter right to freedom of religion. The ultimate question is whether the Bill's limitation to this right is justified in a free and democratic society given the potential risk of harm to a child of being outed to a parent.

Moreover, a one-size-fits-all approach cannot work as it does not take into account a student's age, maturity or any history of trauma, special needs, mental health, faith or social concerns. Whether a child is capable of understanding the topics being discussed and/or consenting to participate is another concern that is not addressed by the legislation.

Nature of GSA Activities

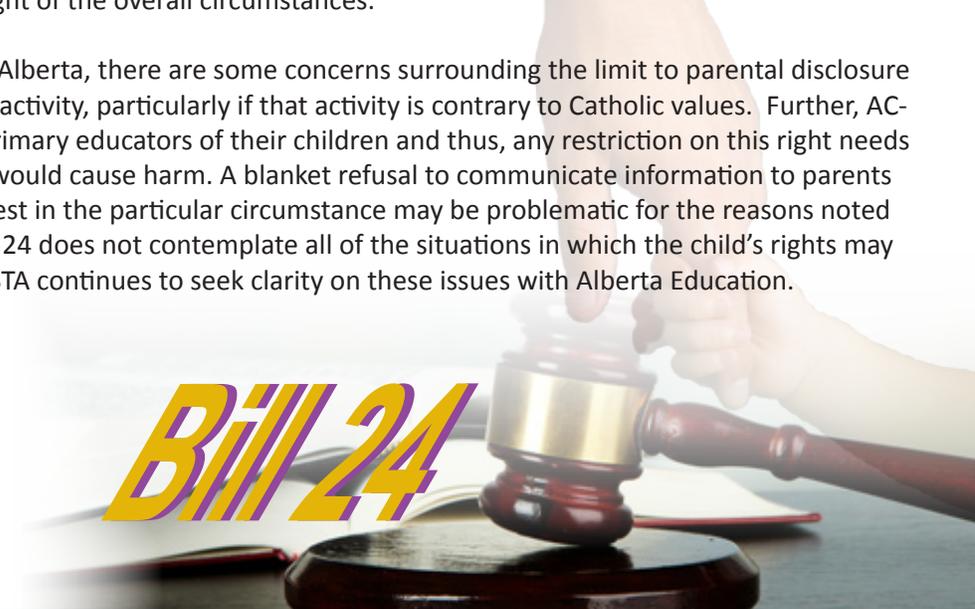
The second issue arising from Bill 24 is whether parents are entitled to know the nature of the activities taking place within the GSA or whether the notification is limited to the formation of the GSA and/or the holding of an activity. Currently, parents receive notification of the subject matter and relevant details of any lessons that entail sex education. It is conceivable that the GSA activities will include sexual subject matter. Thus, it is not clear whether parents have a right to know the subject matter of an activity being held by a GSA.

Another related issue is the fact that Bill 24 requires the Principal to immediately approve *any* activity suggested by the GSA. In a denominational school with constitutionally protected rights to ensure permeation of Catholic principles, this may be over-reaching and a breach of the Separate school's constitutional rights and parental religious rights. If a GSA wished to host sexual education seminars that would teach practices that are contrary to Catholic values, would such a request need to be automatically approved? It is likely that this would result in a legal challenge on the basis that it violates freedom of religion and the right of the separate school to maintain its denominational character.

FOIP

Finally, there appears to be an inconsistency between Bill 24 and FOIP. For example, if a parent makes a FOIP request seeking specific information with respect to whether their child has joined a GSA, section 17 prohibits the release of the information only if it is an "unreasonable invasion of a third person's personal privacy". Further, section 84(1)(e) of FOIP allows a guardian to access the personal information of a minor unless it is an unreasonable invasion of personal privacy of the minor. The provisions of FOIP are paramount to the guardianship rights pursuant to the *Family Law Act*. However, it is unclear whether a guardian's FOIP request will be categorically denied as a result of Bill 24 on the basis that it is "unreasonable", or whether the definition of 'unreasonable' will be evaluated in light of the overall circumstances.

While GSAs are welcome in all Catholic schools in Alberta, there are some concerns surrounding the limit to parental disclosure and the requirement to immediately approve *any* activity, particularly if that activity is contrary to Catholic values. Further, ACSTA believes that parents and guardians are the primary educators of their children and thus, any restriction on this right needs to be justified in light of evidence that disclosure would cause harm. A blanket refusal to communicate information to parents without some assessment of the child's best interest in the particular circumstance may be problematic for the reasons noted above. While commendable in many respects, Bill 24 does not contemplate all of the situations in which the child's rights may not override parental or constitutional rights. ACSTA continues to seek clarity on these issues with Alberta Education.



Bill 24

CELEBRATING WORLD CATHOLIC EDUCATION DAY

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Member Statements

On May 10, 2018, celebrated in Canada as World Catholic Education Day, two MLAs, Mark Smith (UCP) and Annie Mckitrick (NDP) provided statements in the Alberta Legislature celebrating World Catholic Education Day were positively received by the members.



Mr. Mark Smith (UCP)
MLA for Drayton Valley-Devon

It is my pleasure to rise and highlight today as World Catholic Education Day, which is being celebrated across Canada. Catholic education has served parents, their children, and communities in countries across the world. In Canada Catholic education is an integral contributor to our Canadian identity and culture, serving the nation through faith-based leading and learning. Catholic education, with its deeply rooted teachings of social justice, service to the community, and ongoing promotion of respect and dignity for all persons, values which are inherent to our identity as Canadians and Albertans, has helped define who we are. Catholic schools provide an environment for the students which encourages not only high academic achievement but strong emphasis on love of God, self, and others. This is achieved by permeating all curriculum with faith, emphasizing sacrificial love, respect for creation, and academic development in an effort to form the student's whole person. The strength of Alberta's education system is built on the foundation of choice. Parents have a variety of options to choose from as they decide what the best avenue of education is for their kids. With steadily increasing enrolment numbers, parents in Alberta continue to demonstrate that Catholic education remains a primary option for many families across the province. I would like to offer my most sincere congratulations to all who are involved in Catholic education in our province, and I would ask all members of the Assembly to join me in congratulating all of our fantastic English and francophone Catholic schools across this great province and wishing them the best as they celebrate World Catholic Education Day.



Ms. Annie McKitrick (NDP)
MLA for Sherwood Park

Alberta's Catholic community makes an enormous contribution to our province. This is why I'm rising today to recognize World Catholic Education Day. Every year Catholics across the world give thanks for the gift of Catholic education. Alberta has a long and wonderful tradition of publicly funded education. Every day Catholic schools teach students the skills they need to be leaders in their communities and to build a bright future for themselves, their families, and the province as a whole. The government is proud to support all of our students. We are hiring new teachers, reducing school fees, and making investments we need to make in our children. In my constituency we are celebrating the announcement of the modernization of l'école Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic elementary school, which will provide modern learning spaces for students for generations to come. Alberta's greatest strength is its diversity. Alberta is home to many faith communities, who have contributed greatly to the identity of this province. While each of us in this province lives out our own values, there is more that unites us than divides us: our sense of fairness, our compassion, our sense of justice, our desire to ensure that all children are nurtured and cared for, our pioneer spirit, and for many of us the centrality of our faith to our daily lives, myself included. I love walking into Archbishop Jordan school in Sherwood Park and seeing the 12 chairs and the statue of Jesus, where students meet and develop community. It brings the centrality of faith into the everyday life of the students. I hope that World Catholic Education Day brings Albertans marking the occasion inspiration and grace and that together we can continue to do the important work of ensuring that our children can reach their full potential. Merci.



Religion in Canada:

Implications for Catholic Education

Submitted by : Dr. Matt Hoven, Associate Professor,
Peter and Doris Kule Lecturer in Catholic Religious Education
- St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta

It's hard to imagine our country as more religious than the United States, but that reality existed for much of the first half of the twentieth-century. The movement away from Christianity generally, and the increased number of people with no religious affiliation since, are consequential for Catholic education.

Drs. Brian Clarke and Stuart Macdonald, instructors at the Toronto School of Theology at the University of Toronto, recently published *Leaving Christianity: Changing Allegiances in Canada since 1945* (McGill-Queen's University Press). As theology instructors teaching future pastors for ministry in Canada, they are concerned how changing religious demographics challenge and reshape Christian ministry. Much of their focus is given to Protestant denominations, like Anglican and United Churches, which have shrunk at incredibly fast rates since the 1960s, but they do include investigation of Catholics in Canada. Overall, the authors explain how many nominal Christians are increasingly disconnected from local church life. Over time,

as generations are being raised with less religiosity, people leave their churches and ultimately leave the Christian faith behind. The authors' main point is this: many people aren't just leaving churches, they're giving up on Christianity altogether. The authors are struck by the contemporary assumption that Canada has a strong secular heritage when the nation was overwhelmingly Christian not that long ago—over 90% of people declared they were Catholic or Protestant in 1961.

While religious identity has been more persistent with Catholics than those in many Protestant churches—even among youth—the authors claim that we are starting to see signs of fewer Catholics identifying their children as Catholic. Of course, heavy immigration from countries like the Philippines and Nigeria have buoyed the Catholic population, yet the authors contend that these streams

of immigration aren't what they once were and that proportionally Catholic numbers are starting to slip this decade. For instance, in Alberta, the proportion of declared Catholics in the population dipped below a quarter of the total population in 2011.

Shifting viewpoints between generations is worth noting in particular. I experienced this reality in February. I was away at a conference and, in lieu of class time, I had my

undergraduate students attend a formal, local debate on the future of Catholic schools in the province. Upon my return, students reported that a majority of the audience seemed

opposed to funding for Catholic education. Further, students told me that they perceived themselves as very young amongst an audience who they saw as overwhelmingly "grey-haired." This experience confirms an Cardus-Angus Reid survey last year that reported

This younger generation, who are less religious but more supportive of Catholic education, how will they affect future decision-making in our schools?



those “grey-haired” folks were least likely to support faith-based schooling—whereas those under 35 were most favorable to it.

In addition to this generational tendency, Canadian sociologist Reginald Bibby reported this Easter that Millennials are most likely to believe in the afterlife despite the lowest rates of belief in God. (Those over 70 held the highest rates for the latter belief.) This younger generation, who are less religious but more supportive of Catholic education, how will they affect future decision-making in our schools? Because a large proportion of Cath-

olics are (becoming) non-affiliated or nominal members, according to Clarke and Macdonald, concerns arise over enrollments of Catholic students, parental support, and hiring of Catholic teachers. Sacramental preparation in conjunction with parishes will become more vital. The same can be said of the need to support core groups of parents who can witness to, explain and themselves support the schools’ Catholic ethos. Educational formation of pre-service teachers will become even more essential—not to mention its importance for educational leaders.

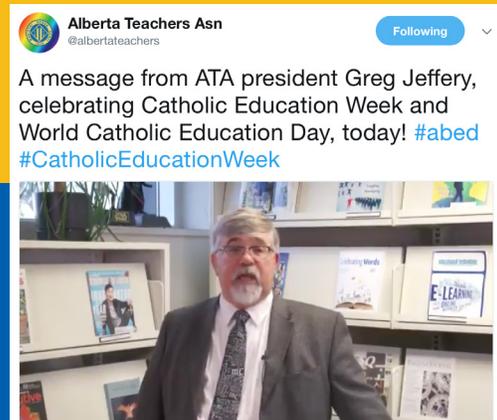
What about the proportionate increase of other religious traditions, like Islam, in Alberta? Catholic education can do its part by continuing to support other traditions within its schools. This work is most evident in high school religious education. Learning about other religions is compulsory in these courses and, to my mind, this is the most extensive project of inter-faith learning in the province. What remains unclear is how these other religious groups will be accommodated in the public schooling system—and if localized, cultural school programs will be deemed satisfactory.

To be sure, Clarke and Macdonald see a declining public role for Catholicism, and other Christian traditions, in our nation. In a society increasingly driven by a cultural ethos of consumerism and choice, the deck is stacked against the growth of Canada’s Christian heritage and new challenges will arise for Catholic education. How we respond to this situation is critical for our schools.



ATA

Special thanks to ATA President, Greg Jeffery, for supporting Catholic Education in his video clip shared on Social Media. Also wearing blue on World Catholic Education Day, demonstrates everyone’s commitment and support of Catholic Education.



<https://twitter.com/albertateachers/status/994634095593381888>



**Make your
voice heard in
support of
publicly funded
Catholic
Education!**



**Submitted by: Shari Gustafson
PACE, Chair**



While walking home from school with my son in Grade 2, he strikes up a conversation about the virtue of self-control. Obviously shocked to hear these words in his daily repertoire, I ask him what this means. He shares that his teacher taught them that it means thinking before you act and then making a loving choice for your actions and tells me that he made a commitment not to argue with his brother anymore by talking things out and forgiving. Quite impressed with his expertise on this new topic I watched him work towards this commitment and navigate change. I have to say, the first few weeks were bliss! Although the excitement to practice this virtue in this regard has faded a bit, when I hear them bickering I simply say “self-control” and they both end up in giggles!

From everyday stories like this to being excited for liturgical celebrations, Christmas Concerts, or engaging in Rosary each morning in May, the Month of Mary, Catholic Education is a gift to many families in the province, molding and shaping their children through daily encounters with Christ’s love; encounters that focus on Gospel teachings and virtue education in every minute of every day. Our teachers and school community work hard to reveal Christ’s message not only in words, but in every gesture of behaviour. Religion is not considered a class, but a way of living. The impact of Catholic Education is immeasurable, changing our

children’s being and moral existence. As parents, this reason alone makes other educational options inadequate. The fact that Non-Catholic families desire this educational framework, which nourishes a moral and ethical foundation on which to build character and decision-making capacity, is no surprise.

PACE is a grassroots group of parents seeking to bring voice to the growing body of families who desire faith-based education where Gospel values infuse the school community and are actively lived. PACE is working to show unity and support for Catholic Education in our province. The purpose of PACE is to engage parents in issues of Catholic education so as to advocate on behalf of Catholic schools.

The current political climate surrounding Catholic Education has PACE concerned for the future for Catholic Education in our province. There is a vocal public-school lobby advocating for one publicly funded school system. Curriculum revisions taking place do not favour Catholic schools in aligning their instruction with the teachings of our Catholic faith and core beliefs, especially in the area of human sexuality and family life. Now more than ever, it is important for us to let our government know our desires to maintain policies and laws that protect our rights to a publically funded Catholic School Education System and that we look forward to working with them to build strong Catholic education communities in our province.

Pace has hosted parent engagement nights in the communities of Strathmore, Okotoks, Brooks, Drumheller, Canmore, and in Calgary at Clear Water Academy. During the engagement evenings PACE shares that parents can have an impact as a voice for Catholic Education, the history of Catholic Education, how Catholic Education is unique and distinct, current statistics, current issues facing Catholic Education, and explores how PACE and parents can work together to bring voice to their support for Catholic Education. These engagement evenings have been very well received and attended with up to 80 parents at some locations! When asked in an exit slip what they will take away from the evening PACE received comments from parents such as,

- “The value and importance of Catholic Education. Being strong as a community. Parents play a pivotal role. Awareness and the need to be vocal in protecting our rights as Christians and parents and being aware of what is being taught to our children. Protect the rights of parents to raise their children as they wish.”

If you are interested in hearing more, you can contact PACE by email at pace@redeemer.ab.ca or follow them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/parentsforcathed/>

PACE needs your support to share that families truly do value Catholic Education in our province and are willing to be a voice advocating for the future of Catholic Education. Please take a moment to review and sign the electronic petition to maintain policies and laws that protect your rights to a publically funded Catholic School Education system.

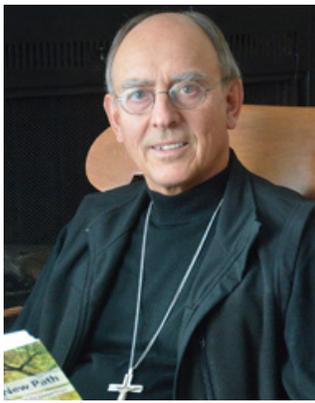
PACE Petition <https://www.change.org/p/education-minister-david-eggen-maintain-policies-and-laws-that-protect-my-rights-to-a-catholic-school-education-system>

Congratulations to **Calgary Catholic** and the opening of seven new schools.

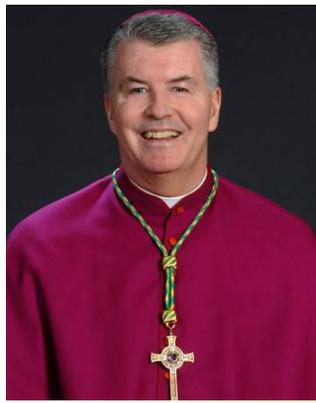
ACSTA was proud to present commemorative plaques to each of the new schools. Trustees of the Calgary



Trustees of the Calgary Catholic School district had the opportunity to present them to the respective administrators during a Leadership meeting where they were very well received. The Trustees of the Calgary Catholic School District state, “we certainly appreciate the support of the ACSTA.”



**Archbishop Emeritus
Sylvain Lavoie**



**Bishop
William McGrattan**

Keynote Speakers

May 30 - June 1, 2019



CANMORE 2019 CCSTA/ACCEC

faith
**moving
mountains**

La foi
**déplace des
montagnes**

coast canmore hotel & conference centre - canmore, alberta

Breakout Session Speakers



**Kathleen
Ladouceur**



**Anna
Loparco**



**Jennifer
Woo**



**Archbishop
Richard
Smith**



**Fr. Stefano
Penna**



**Dr. Troy
Davies**



**Sandy
Prather**



**Dr. Dave
Khatib**

Catholic Education Week

World Catholic Education Day

Shoutout to Holy Family Catholic Regional Division for spearheading the #BlueforCatholicEd week. This campaign provided the opportunity to celebrate Catholic education in Alberta. Here are some statistics to share:



On World Catholic Education Day May 10th, wear #BlueforCatholicEd



443 tweets were sent out with the hashtag #BlueforCatholicEd

- those tweets reached 83,625 accounts,
- those tweets had 338,809 views
- every Catholic school board in Alberta jumped on board, including a francophone board with 4 Catholic schools, and so did the ATA and the ACSTA! The Minister of Education shared a post on Facebook about it, but did not mention whether he wore blue.

TWEETREACH SNAPSHOT FOR

#BlueforCatholicEd

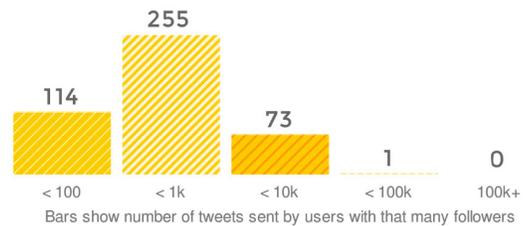
ESTIMATED REACH

83,625

ACCOUNTS REACHED

EXPOSURE

338,809 IMPRESSIONS

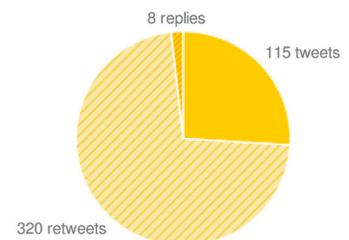


ACTIVITY

443
TWEETS

153
CONTRIBUTORS

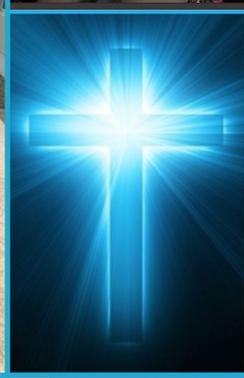
9
DAYS





Adriana LaGrange
@AdrianaLaGrange

Blessed to be celebrating World Catholic Education Day!
180,000 + students in Alberta
800,000 + students in Canada
6,600,000 + students in World

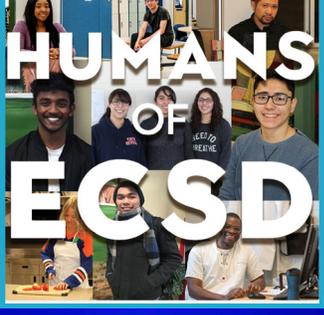


"We in Catholic Schools are also given the same responsibility of the Good Shepherd, to love, care, protect, guide and educate our students. When a priest puts on a stole it is woven with sheep's wool representing the Good Shepherd. Jesus was the Good Shepherd who tended his flock, his people. Therefore the priest understands the great responsibility when putting the stole upon their shoulders, the responsibility to care, love, protect and lead the flock as the Good Shepherd did."

- Kathleen Murphy-House
Director, Fort McMurray Catholic Schools

CATHOLIC EDUCATION MATTERS
#WeAreFMCSI

1. We learn about God
2. We Read The bible
3. Prayers - we pray every day
4. We learn about the Spirit
5. we Talk about Baby Jesus
6. we pray every day



WEAR BLUE
on World Catholic Education Day
Thursday May 10th, 2018

Show your support for Catholic Education!
#BlueforCatholicEd



Catholic Education Week and World Catholic Education Day was a huge success with a multitude of activities across the province celebrating and profiling Catholic education. Special thanks to Holy Family Catholic Regional Division who brought forth the initiative of wearing blue on World Catholic education week. As you can see from the chart, the hash tag campaign #BlueforCatholicEd had a wide reaching audience.

Edmonton Catholic School District launched their *Humans of ECSD* to share the good news of Catholic education. This project *Humans of ECSD* explored the personal experience of students and staff at Edmonton Catholic Schools. Their Student Senators interviewed and photographed people from their school communities and asked them to describe in their own voice the depth and richness Catholic education provides. The launch of this project coincided with Catholic Education Week and provided an opportunity to articulate the unique blessing that is Catholic education. Their digital story-telling campaign takes its cues from the Humans of New York project and will continue in the upcoming weeks. Visit <https://www.ecsd.net/BoardofTrustees/student-senate/Pages/Humans-of-ECSD.aspx> regularly to enjoy these stories which bear witness to the importance and value of Catholic education.

Would you like to learn more about the distinctiveness of Catholic education? Edmonton Catholic Schools has created an interactive graphic to help you explore the 12 Ways #ECSDfaithinspires. Visit <https://www.ecsd.net/News/Pages/12-Ways---ECSDfaithinspires.aspx>.



ACSTA would like to thank everyone for their contributions. We look forward to next year!



12 WAYS

#ECSDfaithinspires:

- 1 Offering a Catholic faith infused curriculum that integrates learner outcomes and teaching strategies while always striving for excellence.
- 2 Respecting the rights of parents as the primary faith educators of their children, always striving to work collaboratively.
- 3 Giving the highest quality Catholic education regardless of circumstance, while providing the best opportunities to embrace their God-given gifts and talents.
- 4 Honouring diversity and welcoming newcomers, Catholic education contributes to celebrating Canada's mosaic of citizens.
- 5 Offering 21st century learning that complements our commitment as a Catholic community of learners, leaders and educators.
- 6 Fostering an inclusive community of learners founded on principles of hospitality, tradition, justice, sacramentality, and spirituality.
- 7 Articulating the Core Values of dignity and respect, honesty, loyalty, fairness, and personal and communal growth.
- 8 Inspiring love of the Father, faith in Jesus Christ, hope from the Holy Spirit.
- 9 Building on the vision that all students will learn together, work together and pray together in answering the call to a faith-filled life of service.
- 10 Providing a welcoming, caring, respectful, safe and Catholic environment that is inspired by the Holy Spirit as a community of compassionate hope.
- 11 Cultivating a school community that gives living witness to the Gospel and teachings of Christ as faithful disciples.
- 12 Embodying a vision that acknowledges all people have an inherent dignity as children of God.

SPICE Retreat Blueprints



Rekindling the Fire:
On Mission with
Christ in the
Here and Now

One of ACSTA's strategic priorities is top quality faith formation opportunities. This year we were pleased and blessed to have Jesuit Fr. Richard Leonard as the SPICE and Blueprints facilitator.

Fr. Richard Leonard shared stories and film on this year's theme, *Rekindling the Fire: On Mission with Christ in the Here and Now*. Participants included administrators, trustees, priests, and support staff from across Alberta, Yukon, and British Columbia.

As a gifted writer, storyteller, and speaker, Fr. Richard was able to weave complex theology into relatable stories about Jesus, meaning and suffering, Mary, and the Church. All this in the beauty and wonder of Kananaskis County. A truly remarkable experience.



Mark your calendars for next year's SPICE and BLUEPRINTS

2019

S.P.I.C.E Retreat - May 2 - 5
Keynote Speaker: Roy Petitfils

Blueprints Retreat - May 7 - 10
Keynote Speaker: Mike Patin

Location: Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge
Hosted by: Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association



Dr. J.K. Donlevy
*The Complex Fiduciary
Duty of Catholic School Trustees*



Cristina Wendel
*Reconciling denominational
rights with human rights – past
experiences and new challenges*

Registration Open

<http://www.acsta.ab.ca/events/catholicschoolslegalsummit>

*Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association
with the sponsorship of Dentons legal firm
invites you to...*

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS LEGAL SUMMIT

Current Legal Challenges to Alberta's Catholic Separate Schools

*"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel;
so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me." Ezekiel 3:17-19*

Friday, September 28, 2018
Wingate by Wyndham Calgary South Hotel






Anna Loparco
*The Implications of the Theodore,
Wall and Trinity Western cases for
Alberta Catholic Schools*



Dr. Robert Murray
*The Politics of
Catholic Education in Alberta*

Please note that *The Canadian Chapter of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars/Amicale des Savants Catholiques Annual Conference* is September 28-29 hosted also in Calgary at the Wyndham Hotel. The theme for this conference is *Keeping Faithful to the Faith in a Post-Christian Society*.

Conference registration and information can be found at the following link: <http://fcsconference.ca/content/about-conference>



Approaches to Building within our Catholic Education System

Submitted by : Braiden Scotten

St. Marguerite Catholic School - Evergreen Catholic School Division

EXCEL Academy - Newman Theological College

The first approach to build on what we already do well is by ensuring that all stakeholders are on the same page with our mission. Any good relationship is based on strong communication. This relationship would be centered on the partnership between the family, parish and school triad. Mulligan discusses this concept when he wrote, "We need ownership of Catholic education on part of all the partners" (p. 288). All parties will need to work together and collaborate to ensure all voices are heard properly. This might demonstrate to bystanders or perhaps non-Catholics that we are a united front and one team.

The second approach that we can continue to build on our success is by having our teachers be witnesses of Christ within and outside of the classroom. Kouzes and Posner suggest that values drive commitment. "You cannot fully commit to something that isn't important to you" (p. 31). This means that our system needs to employ teachers that live out their faith and can be a testimony to a Catholic life. The teachers also need to be able to share the Catholic story and have others believe what they are saying to be credible.

The last approach in order to continue to build on our success is that we as Catholic educators continue to learn from past mistakes. This might mean learning from the mistakes that happened within the Newfoundland Catholic education system. Mulligan states regarding past mistakes that occurred in Newfoundland, "That would sadden me immensely, for it would mean we had learned nothing" (p. 295). One of the significant concepts that stand out with the Newfoundland loss of system is that the public schools and Catholic schools were virtually the same. Catholic educators will need to ensure that as a Catholic education system in Alberta we are continuing to offer a different experience than the public-school system. We also need to ensure that our schools are not adequate or watered-down versions and we stay true to ourselves as Catholics.

Overall, it is up to us as Catholic leaders to ensure our system continues into the foreseeable future. Together we can do this by continuing strong communication between shareholders. Catholic leaders can also ensure they are telling the Catholic story and perspective within and outside of the classroom. Lastly, we can all learn from past mistakes and ensure our system does not become complacent. If we as Catholics leaders can continue to work towards these approaches, then we will be able to make a strong stance for the value of our Albertan Catholic education system.

References

- Kouzes, J. M., & Posner, B. Z. (2010). *The Truth about Leadership: The No-fads, Heart-of-the-Matter Facts you Need to Know*. Jossey-Bass.
- Mulligan, J. T. (2006). *Catholic Education: Ensuring the Future*. Novalis.



ABC of Catholic Education: What Pope Francis has to say.



Pope Francis has much to say about Catholic education. Here are eight popular articles that specially address the Pope's vision of Catholic education. Please take a few minutes to read through and select phrases that speak to you. Have a conversation about Catholic education with others.... and quote the Pope.

Ten Quotes from Pope Francis That Will Inspire Catholic Students:

<https://www.collegexpress.com/interests/catholic/blog/ten-quotes-pope-francis-will-inspire-catholic-students/>

You Cannot Speak of Catholic Education without Speaking About Humanity:

<https://www.romereports.com/en/2015/11/23/pope-francis-you-cannot-speak-of-catholic-education-without-speaking-about-humanity/>



Pope Francis Quotes About Catholic Education:
http://www.azquotes.com/author/5099-Pope_Francis/tag/school

Educators form lives that are ready to face the future, Pope says:
<https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2017/02/09/educators-form-lives-ready-face-future-pope-says/>

Pope Francis offers three proposals for improving Catholic education:
<https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2014/02/13/pope-francis-offers-three-proposals-for-improving-catholic-education/>

Pope Francis: Kids need values, hope from teachers:
<https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/francis-chronicles/pope-francis-kids-need-values-hope-teachers-teachers-need-better-pay>

Parents must be involved in child's education, Pope Francis says:
<https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2018/01/05/parents-must-be-involved-in-childs-education-pope-francis-says/>

Catholic Education must Engage the Culture:
<https://zenit.org/articles/pope-francis-catholic-education-must-engage-the-culture/>



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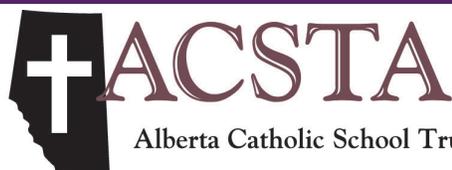
Celebrate, preserve, promote and enhance Catholic education



What Research has to say about Catholic Education:

- ➔ Catholic education serves to place disciplinary tradition and interdisciplinary creativity at the service of the common good. (Davies & Franchi, 2013)
- ➔ The human person is created in the image and likeness of God and is called to holiness. An authentic Catholic education is the means by which the human person grows and flourishes. (Davies & Franchi, 2013)
- ➔ Asking a child to reflect on education beyond them, in relationship to Jesus Christ, helps elevate moral action to the divine. (Feinberg, 2006)
- ➔ Through religion we might glimpse a stance toward virtue that would be otherwise hidden. (Vergote, 1978)
- ➔ A philosophy of Catholic education contributes to a spiritual vision of education that is humanizing - a curriculum that educates *Life for All* always promoting the value of the person. (Groome, 1998)
- ➔ Catholic education = unity in diversity. A natural theology lending appeal to people of many traditions, simply on human grounds. (Groome, 1998)
- ➔ To be a Catholic educator is a sacred privilege and an awesome responsibility. (Groome, 2002)
- ➔ As Catholic educators, we believe that humans are created in the image and likeness of God and are worthy of a loving dignity and mercy that is

- unconditional and everlasting preparing their students to be saints. (Miller, 2014)
- ➔ The Catholic school is filled with a spirit of trust, a willingness to collaborate, and a sincerity of living a life of faithful witness founded on Catholic teachings of Christ. (Arbuckle, 2013)
 - ➔ The philosophical distinctiveness of Catholic education contributes to honoring Canada's mosaic of citizens. (D'Souza, 2003)
 - ➔ The Catholic school serves as a catalyst for social transformation through the teaching of Gospel values. (Dobzanski, 2013)
 - ➔ The Catholic school articulates its mission, shared vision, and core values in partnership with parents and with the support of the entire Catholic community. (Dobzanski, 2013)
 - ➔ Based on 59 researchers and analysts working in 35 societies across the world, studies have found that Catholic schools lead to overall higher achievement, lower drop out rates, and higher achievement especially for disadvantaged students. (Grace & O'Keefe, 2007)
 - ➔ Based on 59 researchers and analysts working in 35 societies across the world Catholic education success is attributed to the focused mission, high expectations and inclusion of all students, safe environment, principal leadership, high level of parental involvement, and dedicated staff. (Grace & O'Keefe, 2007)
 - ➔ The word Catholic comes from combining two Greek words, *katha* and *holos* literally means 'gathering in the whole' or more colloquially, 'all are welcome.' The implication is that all people are welcome, bonding as a united community amid great diversity. (Groome, 2002)
 - ➔ The Catholic school is built on social justice highlighting the importance of moral values, founded on the natural law on every human conscience. (Sodano, 2004)
 - ➔ The Catholic school must be concerned with constant and careful attention to cultivating in students the intellectual, creative and aesthetic faculties of the human person respecting the diverse cultures and backgrounds that will lead to mutual understanding. (Sacred Congregation of Catholic Education, 2004)



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