

February 2025

Re: Education Property Tax - Declaration of Separate School Support

Dear Catholic Elector,

The Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS) Board of Trustees is committed to community engagement, advocacy, and transparency to ensure a strong connection with Catholic electors in each of our communities.

Did you know that Catholic Education is funded through education property taxes, grants, and general provincial revenue? As a Catholic elector, you should be aware of your right to direct your property taxes in support of Catholic Education. This right provides a vital connection between Catholic separate school boards like EICS and you, their electors.

Taxes declared in support of the Catholic separate school division benefit the children we are blessed to serve. The *Constitution Act* of Canada and the Alberta *Education Act* stipulate that individuals who are Catholic must direct their education taxes to Catholic separate school boards where they exist.

In order to ensure your property taxes are supporting your Catholic separate school, you must declare your school support as "separate" on your annual property assessment notice and tax bill. If a declaration of school support is not filed by a property owner, the property assessment and tax bills will automatically show your school support going to the public school division.

If your support designation is incorrect, it should be corrected by completing and submitting *Form 6A* – *School Support Notice Roman Catholic Separate Individual* directly <u>from the Alberta Government</u> <u>website</u>. You can then submit this form to your local municipal government's taxation department. Please note that a change in school support does not take effect until the following calendar year.

Thank you for advocating for your faith-based schools and your right to support them with your local taxes.

Yours in Catholic Education,

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Le-Ann Ewaskiw Board Chair Elk Island Catholic Schools