

2025 Trustee Election

Elk Island Catholic Schools



Dean Sarnecki

Sherwood Park Ward 1,
Sherwood Park Subdivision 1

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Dean Sarnecki is seeking a second term as trustee for Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS). A proud resident of Sherwood Park since 1987, Dean is married to Antonia, and together they have raised three children—all graduates of Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School.

Dean holds a Bachelor of Education and a PhD in Secondary Education from the University of Alberta, as well as a Master of Religious Education (M.R.E.) from Newman Theological College. Over a 30-year career with Sherwood Park Catholic/Elk Island Catholic Schools, he taught students from Grades 3 through 12 and served in a variety of leadership roles including school chaplain, Assistant Principal, and Principal.

From 2012 to 2020, Dean served as Executive Director of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA), representing 24 Catholic school divisions across Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon. In this role, he was a key advocate for Catholic education—engaging with government officials, education stakeholders, bishops, teachers, and the broader public to promote and protect publicly funded Catholic schools.

A lifelong educator, Dean has taught Religious Education at both Newman Theological College and St. Joseph's College (University of Alberta) since 1997. He currently teaches at St. Joseph's College, focusing on Catholic teacher formation and the mission of Catholic education.

Deeply committed to his community, Dean has coached youth hockey, lacrosse, ringette, basketball, and volleyball, and served for many years as a lacrosse referee. He also served as a director on the REAL Foundation, the educational foundation supporting EICS, for eight years. A dedicated parishioner of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH), Dean has been actively involved in parish life since moving to Sherwood Park.

Dean's passion lies in the distinct mission of Catholic education and its critical place in the life of the Church and society. He believes that the heart of any school is its teachers, and in Catholic schools, their spiritual and professional growth is vital to achieving educational excellence. Supporting and forming teachers in faith and pedagogy will continue to be a cornerstone of his work as trustee.