

2025 Trustee Election

Elk Island Catholic Schools



Ted Paszek

Sherwood Park Ward 1,
Sherwood Park Subdivision 1

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I am an experienced trustee seeking re-election in the Strathcona County ward of Elk Island Catholic Schools. My wife, Jan, and I are long-time residents of the County of Strathcona and active parishioners at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Sherwood Park. My four children all graduated from Elk Island Catholic Schools and I have grandchildren currently attending Catholic schools in Sherwood Park. I am a retired Catholic teacher and Catholic school principal.

I have served as EICS Board chair and vice-chair. I am a former president of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association and a past president of the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association. I completed my doctorate in educational policy studies at the University of Alberta in 2012. I have developed expertise in the history of the constitutional rights for Catholic education in Canada. I served as an expert witness in the Saskatchewan Theodore court case regarding constitutional rights.

I wish to continue my work as an advocate for Catholic education. It has been my lifelong passion. Our Catholic schools provide an excellent education but even more importantly, we provide a Gospel values based education that helps develop the whole child, academically, physically, socially and spiritually. I will continue to work to remind our own community as well as the larger community of the importance of Catholic education. I am well aware that there are those who are pushing to do away with Catholic schools. I believe that Catholic education is precious to us as Catholics but it is also important to the fabric of Alberta society. More than ever we need the values given to us by the life and teachings of Jesus. Our Catholic schools teach us to care for each other and our environment which counters an increasingly individualistic and materialistic world.

Our staff is the most important resource we have in creating the best learning conditions for our students. I will continue to support the hiring of the best staff possible, ensuring that salaries and benefits remain competitive and that faith development and professional growth opportunities continue to be a priority for our staff. I am concerned about class size and the need for better support to deal with classroom complexity. Mental health and well-being of students and staff is a priority. I will continue to advocate for better funding of education.

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Parents are our partners in education I will continue to listen to their voices. Parents have primary responsibility for the education of their children and they have chosen a Catholic education with Elk Island Catholic Schools. I will do everything I can to honour their trust.

Elk Island Catholic Schools are a success story and I wish to continue to make our Catholic schools even more successful. I am devoted to providing the choice of Catholic education in the communities that we serve as Elk Island Catholic Schools.