



ALGONQUIN AND LAKESHORE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Office of the Director of Education

January 26, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board released a Long Term Capital Plan and associated recommendations as prepared by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., for public review and consultation as prescribed by the Ministry of Education. This Plan is focused toward ensuring a strong and vibrant Catholic school system in our jurisdiction for years to come and offers our community the very best facilities that can reasonably be afforded and the very best program opportunities for our current and future students.

Our total Board enrolment has decreased by 1,285 students since 2001 and will decrease a further 1,736 students by 2024. Our inventory of schools has remained essentially what it was in 2001. Given the demographic trends and condition of the Board's facility inventory, it is important for the Board to take a serious look at not only the condition but the location of its schools with a view towards maximizing its asset inventory both today and into the future. Our ability to offer meaningful and relevant programming into the future will depend upon maximizing our resources. Declining enrolment and aging buildings will increasingly diminish our ability to devote resources to the classroom while we struggle to keep older and underutilized buildings in place. It is an issue of the stewardship of resources.

The Long Term Capital Plan (2010) report recommends a capital investment program in excess of \$57 million over the next five years of which \$24.6 million has already been recognized for provincial funding for the replacement school project already complete at Sacred Heart Catholic School, Marmora, and for the projects currently underway at St. Michael Catholic School, Belleville, St. Peter Catholic School, Trenton, and St. Paul Catholic Secondary School, Trenton. The overall approach proposed in the Long Term Capital Plan, including the projects already underway would result in the construction of:

- One new school (Catarqui West, Kingston)
- Three replacement schools (Kingston Centre, Sacred Heart, Marmora, St. Peter, Trenton)
- One addition/deep retrofit of an existing school (St. Michael, Belleville) and
- Five additions (St. Thomas More, Georges Vanier, Holy Name of Mary, St. Paul Catholic Secondary School, St. Theresa Catholic Secondary School)

The Long Term Capital Plan (2010) identifies a number of priorities for capital investment over the next five years, most associated with proposed school consolidations which are subject to future decisions of the Board to be informed by public consultation following Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) processes.

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Leading and Learning with Faith

Release of the Long Term Capital Plan (2010) will enable public consultation to begin on the proposed recommendations in accordance with the ARC process. A calendar for these six identified reviews over the next three school years is included in the report. Each Accommodation Review Committee, once established, will review the recommendations for their area, study the enrolment and facility condition data and formulate recommendations back to the Board for their consideration and decision.

The Board will host two information sessions to enable parents and community members to better understand the timelines and process for consultation.

- February 15, 2011 (6:30 pm - 8:30 pm) Regiopolis-Notre Dame Catholic High School (130 Russell Street, Kingston)
- February 16, 2011 (6:30 pm - 8:30 pm) Nicholson Catholic College (301 Church Street, Belleville)

The Long Term Capital Plan (2010) underscores our commitment to be stewards of our resources in our planning and capital investments. We look forward to consulting with our communities as we plan to align these resources to best meet the needs of our Catholic education system for the next twenty years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Schmitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Schmitt".

Michael Schmitt
Director of Education