



## ALGONQUIN AND LAKESHORE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

May 4, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, at their meeting of Monday, January 28, 2008, resolved that an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) be established to study accommodation issues affecting Sacred Heart Catholic School (Batawa), St. Mary Catholic School (Trenton), St. Peter Catholic School (Trenton) and St. Paul Catholic Secondary School (Trenton). The issues considered by the study included ageing school facilities, program demands and declining enrolment.

Members of the ARC, including parents, staff, parish and municipal representatives for each school community, were steadfast in their determination to ensure that optimal accommodation solutions to serve the needs and interests of the students, broader community and the Board over the long term. The ARC committee is to be commended for their commitment to, and vision for, Catholic education in the Quinte West community.

The recommendations contained within the School Valuation Report and Recommendations to the Director were reviewed by Senior Administration and the findings of Staff's Report were presented to the Quinte West community at a Special Board Meeting for Public Input held at St. Paul Catholic Secondary School on Tuesday, February 17, 2009. Following the Special Board Meeting, Senior Administration revisited their report and provided a Follow-up Report for consideration by the Board.

At the Board Meeting of Tuesday, April 28, 2009, the Board of Trustees reviewed Staff's Follow-up Report and approved the following recommendations:

### Recommendation I

THAT the following three recommendations of the Quinte West ARC be incorporated in the Board's capital plan for Quinte West, these elements of which may proceed, subject to Ministry funding:

1. That Sacred Heart CES remain as a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 school situated in Batawa, and that its facility issues be addressed.
2. That the French Immersion Programme be consolidated at a single school site, preferably at St. Mary CES.
3. That a new St. Peter CES be constructed on a new school site, and that the new school site be located in close proximity to St. Paul CSS.

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## Recommendation II

THAT the Board's Capital Plan for Quinte West incorporate the expansion and retrofit of St. Paul Catholic Secondary School as necessary to accommodate Grade 7 and 8 students from St. Mary Catholic School and St. Peter Catholic School, and that the legitimate needs of St. Paul CSS for specialty spaces be addressed within the reorganization of the Catholic Schools in Quinte West, and that these plans may proceed, subject to Ministry funding; and only following significant additional consultation to address the accommodation and administration of Intermediate Grades 7 and 8 in a Secondary setting, in accordance with the Board's Project Development Sequence for the implementation of its Capital Plan.

The Board of Trustees have given direction to staff to begin an Academic Program Review at Sacred Heart Catholic School, Batawa which will identify the specific program needs that any planned new construction must address. In addition, the Board provided direction to staff to further explore an expansion and retrofit of St Paul Catholic Secondary School to address the legitimate needs of that school and to accommodate Grade 7 and 8 students from St Mary Catholic School and St Peter Catholic School. A comprehensive Academic Program Review will be undertaken to first identify the specific program needs of a retrofitted St Paul and a newly built St Peter. Staff from Sacred Heart Catholic School and staff from St Peter Catholic School, St Mary Catholic School and St Paul Catholic Secondary School will now work with School Supervisory Officers in consultation with School Councils and parents to complete these Academic Program Reviews.

Once these Academic Program Reviews have been completed in consultation with the school communities, the Board can then instruct staff to move to an Architectural Feasibility Study process as per Board Project Development Sequence.

For additional information on the Board's Project Development Sequence process, please visit the Board's Pupil Accommodation website linked from the main Board home page at [www.alcidsb.on.ca](http://www.alcidsb.on.ca).

Yours sincerely,

Michael Schmitt  
Director of Education

MS/btd