



*The Northwest Catholic
District School Board*

PRESS RELEASE

September 2009

Check your Taxes to Vote

The Northwest Catholic District School Board encourages Catholic Ratepayers to make sure that they are eligible to vote for their local trustees in the next municipal election.

In order to be eligible to vote for your local Catholic School Board Trustees, you must be registered as a separate school supporter on your property taxes. The Northwest Catholic District School Board urges Catholic Rate Payers to check your property tax bill to ensure that your support is directed to your local Catholic school board.

If you have moved residences recently, bought a new house or if you are a tenant, you can verify your support by checking your property tax bill or contacting your local municipal office. Please make sure that you have your correct information recorded with the municipality to make sure you are eligible to vote. The due date for updating your information, so that you are on the voters list, is October 31st, 2009.

People don't realize that if your information is not recorded or checked, their tax allocation automatically defaults to the public school system. "This means that Catholic Rate Payers need to look carefully at their tax bill to ensure that they are directing their taxes where they want them to be assigned", states Board Chair, Anne-Marie Fitzgerald.

"As a publically funded school system, the educational funding is now assigned to Boards based on student enrolment, so this is not about accessing money for the Catholic School Board. The rationale for encouraging Catholic Rate Payers to

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Mary-Catherine Kelly, Director of Education
Anne-Marie Fitzgerald, Chair of the Board

make sure their records are correct, is to make sure that they will be on the voters list next year for electing Catholic school trustees for the next municipal election in the fall of 2010”, says Director of Education, Mary-Catherine Kelly.

“Catholic education has been an intragal part of Ontario’s history for more than 160 years. As a vital component of the provinces publically funded education system, Catholic schools educate almost 600,000 students each year. Over one million Ontarians choose publically funded Catholic schools for the education of their children.” states John Borst, Vice Chair of the Northwest Catholic District School Board and Board Trustee on the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association.

“Catholic education is part of the fabric of Ontario schools, and we want all who have the right to vote in the next municipal election to have the opportunity to have their voice make a difference”, states the Board Director of Education. Director Kelly also encourages Catholic rate payers to make sure that their records are updated before October 31st, 2009.

“By ensuring that you are accurately recorded as a Catholic school supporter you can help to deliver a powerful message to the government about the level of support for publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario. Your voice and your vote in the next municipal election are important”, says Board Chair Anne-Marie Fitzgerald.

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