



SCSBA



Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association

October 16, 2017

Dear parents/guardians and friends of Catholic Education;

I would like to first of all thank everyone for choosing Catholic education for your child(ren) and for keeping Catholic Education in your prayers.

Secondly, I would like to provide you with an update on the Theodore court case ruling. All eight Catholic school boards in the province are exploring ways to fund the appeal of this unfortunate decision. We are committed to appealing the decision without using operational funds intended for classrooms. All eight boards have united to ask for your help to defray the costs.

Some of you may be aware of the donation site which was set up on our website in June. We thank those who have made donations. Since we could be in court in mid-2018, it is time to embark on an official major fundraising campaign to cover present and future legal costs. The Theodore Appeal campaign will begin this fall. You can expect to hear more about the campaign on this website and through your local Catholic school divisions. Our goal is to raise \$300,000 to pay for the legal counsel anticipated for both the Saskatchewan Court of Appeals and the potential Supreme Court of Canada. We are optimistic this goal will be reached with the kindness and generosity of our stakeholders. If we are fortunate enough to raise more than is required for our legal needs, excess funds will be given to Catholic schools.

Donating is a tangible way for you to support Catholic education. We have approximately 40,000 students who attend Catholic schools in the province and we are committed to doing whatever is necessary to help protect a parent's ability to choose a faith-based Catholic education for their child(ren). We believe in what our Catholic schools have to offer, and know you do as well. We therefore encourage you to consider, over the next couple of months, making your contribution to our collective challenge. Details and information on how to donate, including an online donation form, can be found at <https://www.catholicedspirit.ca>. Tax receipts can be issued for donations.

Lastly, I will end by repeating a portion of what I communicated in my June 2017 letter. *We have been offering Catholic education (not just education to Catholics) for over 125 years in the province of Saskatchewan. By the grace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we have weathered many storms. I have faith and hope that this current situation will be no different. Parents who have a genuine desire to access a Catholic education for their children will continue to be welcomed to have their children attend Catholic schools this year and for many years to come.*

Please anticipate hearing more about the Theodore Appeal campaign for Catholic education: *Catholic Education Matters* and thank you all for your continued support. I also invite you to continue to pray for Catholic education in Saskatchewan.

Blessing in Christ,

Paula Scott, President