

MARCH 25, 2020

Statement

Tom Fortosky, Executive Director
Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association

Unanimous Saskatchewan Court of Appeal Theodore Case Ruling

Today, the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal ruled in favour of the appeal of the Theodore case in a unanimous decision.

This decision overturns the 2017 ruling that sought to limit public funding for students who choose to attend Catholic schools in Saskatchewan but lack a Catholic baptismal certificate.

We are relieved, reassured and grateful for this decision. Even though the Government of Saskatchewan had assured us they would do whatever is necessary to protect your choice for your child's education, this ruling confirms what we have said and believed all along: parents know what is best for their children and they should be able to choose Catholic, faith-based education if that is what they want—no matter their reasons, faith backgrounds or traditions.

We are grateful to the parents and guardians of our students for entrusting us with the education of their children. In spite of this period of uncertainty, they have made their choice and we are humbled and honoured that so many continue to choose Catholic education for their children and families.

We are also grateful to the many donors who generously funded the costs of this appeal. Because of them, all eight Catholic boards in the province were able to keep education funds in the classroom and not divert them to cover costly courtroom expenses.

A significant amount of time and money has been spent on this court case, and we are hopeful that we can all refocus our energy and resources on our students and families to build upon the exemplary model of education we have in this province. However, Good Spirit (Public) School Division does have an option to ask the Supreme Court of Canada to consider the case.

END

Media Contact:
Jason Aebig
(306) 341-9260