

June 2016

Note from Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association

+The Response to the Alberta Minister of Education's Request for Policy & Subsequent Release of: *Guidelines For Best Practices: Creating Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Gender Expression*

What followed the Minister's request and release of the guidelines was an impressive, united and consistent message from all Alberta Catholic School Boards, clergy, parents/guardians and the greater Catholic community reaffirming that every child is precious - a unique child of God deserving of individualized love and attention to reach their full God-given potential regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, etc. and that all should be treated with equal respect and dignity. It was nothing short of miraculous to see the unprecedented numbers (tens of thousands) who took the time to call, email, write, or meet with government officials to make their voices heard. I can assure you that you have been heard and have had a positive impact. Although we continue to monitor the situation and await a formal reply from the education ministry in regards to the policies (and supporting documents) we have every reason to believe that Alberta Education will continue to recognize Catholic religious rights and freedoms and respect that all Catholic Schools have been and will continue to be inclusive, welcoming, safe and caring environments responsive to the individual needs of all their students without exception.

- *Adriana Lagrange*, President, Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association

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YOU helped make the difference, CWL members, and I thank you!

We can see that a united voice, along with prayer, works to make a difference!

- *Cathy B.*, Provincial President
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

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