

**Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

Education and Health Communiqué #2

Mary Hunt, Chairperson

October 2017



“Inspired by the Spirit; Women Respond to God’s Call”

I write this communique to encourage each of you to vote on Monday, October 16th with particular attention to our Catholic School Board Trustee Candidates.

In a letter intended for all Catholics in Alberta Mackenzie, the Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories remind us:

“As Catholics, we have a sacred duty and obligation to make an informed, moral choice in the selection of representatives of the community who will guide and govern, protect and maintain our Catholic schools. It is incumbent upon us to select leaders who will ensure the continued formation of our school communities in the values and teachings of our Lord as taught through our Church. We encourage you to exercise this responsibility in a spirit of prayer and in accord with an informed conscience.”

Why should we support and defend Catholic education?

- Catholic education is a unique partnership between the school, home and parish. Together this triad seeks to develop a student’s whole person by integrating academic excellence and faith. The central focus of Catholic Education is Jesus Christ.
- Catholic schools are distinctive faith communities that nurture the spiritual, academic and physical needs of students through the integration of the Alberta/NWT/Yukon Education curriculum with gospel values and sacramental life. Christ is the centre of the Catholic school and his presence and teaching permeate the school building.
- Catholic schools offer an integrated curriculum of faith formation and academic development in an effort to form the Student’s whole person. This puts Catholic schools in a unique position within the publicly-funded education system, one that is celebrated by the community and guided by the work of the Catholic school trustee.

--- Reasons quoted from a booklet published by the Alberta Catholic School Trustee’s Association

Some interesting facts about Catholic education in Alberta/NWT:

1. Alberta has benefited from Catholic schools since the 1840's- before Alberta became a province in 1905.
2. There are 412 Catholic schools with over 160,000 students attending.
3. There are 24 Catholic school divisions.
4. Saskatchewan, Alberta & Ontario are the only remaining provinces with publicly funded Catholic schools.

Did you know?

Many of the school divisions have information/videos of the candidates for Catholic School Board Trustees on their respective websites and so even if you missed candidate forums, you can still acquire information about your candidates so you can make an informed an vote.

Education cannot be neutral. It is either positive or negative; either it enriches or it impoverishes, either it enables a person to grow or it lessens, even corrupts him. The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this occurs through a rich path made up of many ingredients. This is why there are so many subjects—because development is the results of different elements that act together and stimulate intelligence, knowledge, the emotions, the body and so on.”

Pope Francis