

News Release



Saskatoon Public Schools



Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

April 11, 2006 – Provincial Budget a Good Start say Local School Boards

Saskatoon Public Schools and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools are pleased the provincial government has equalized the per student grants for children in Kindergarten to Grade 12. This means urban school boards in Regina and Saskatoon will now receive the same basic rate per student as all other school divisions in the province.

The change, made in last week's provincial budget, came after the urban boards had pressed their case for several years with provincial politicians and Learning Department officials.

"Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools welcomes this change," said Board Chair Jim Carriere. "We are committed to providing a first-rate Catholic education to our students and this move allows us to direct resources to our classrooms where students will benefit most," said Carriere. "It also allows us to continue to ensure we can responsibly budget for the construction costs of our newest facility, Bethlehem Catholic High School."

"We appreciate this increase in funding which will help us as we develop our budget for a challenging 2006 and 2007 budget year," said Dan Danielson, chairperson of the Board of Education for Saskatoon Public Schools. "Our Board is looking to continue the important progress we have made on our two priorities which are early learning and literacy and facilities for learning."

Both school divisions are building new schools that have been long overdue. The public division's Centennial Collegiate and W.P. Bate Community School open in the fall of 2006. Tommy Douglas Collegiate and Bethlehem Catholic High School, part of the Integrated Community Centre being built in the Blairmore multi-district park/school site, open in the fall of 2007. Both Boards will have to meet the capital requirements for these new facilities which the citizens of Saskatoon have been looking forward to for many years.

Both Boards hope that further changes to the per student grant structure continue to address inequities and provide for a long-term commitment to adequately fund education and rely less on the local tax base.

The budgets for Saskatoon Public and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools will be presented to the public in early May.

- 30 -

For more information contact:

Joy Adams Bauer
Communications Officer
Saskatoon Public Schools
(306) 683-8325

Donella Hoffman
Communications Consultant
Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools
(306) 659-7077