

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION LARRY YAGUCHI ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board would like to announce the retirement of Director of Education Larry Yaguchi, effective April 30, 2005. He will be completing his five-year mandate as director for our Board, part of his thirty-two-year career devoted to the education of youth.

Mr. Yaguchi first joined the NCDSB in May of 2000, ready to lead the Board through the challenges ensuing from restructuring and amalgamations. Upon the beginning of his mandate, he conducted careful consultations with our stakeholders to identify the changing needs of our system, and the most effective and efficient course of action. He then set out on a mission to fulfill these priorities in order to strengthen our system and better serve the students.

As he noted in his entry plan, "Change involves not only knowing what needs to happen, but how, and sometimes, most importantly, when." As such Mr. Yaguchi provides the key Catholic leadership to do just that. He maintains communication with our extended family of partners, in particular our bishops and members of the clergy, recognizing that they are central to the triad that forms the basis for Catholic education. He also works with our government representatives, to ensure that the changing educational needs of our students remain on their agendas. Most importantly, he ensures that each member of our team knows their role and their responsibilities, and encourages them as they implement new programs and curriculum. He believes that together, we can make a difference, and provide the best learning environment for our children.



He stresses the importance of planning for the future in order to make the most efficient use of resources. In this regard, he initiated short and long term planning goals not only at the senior administrative level, but also including parents, staff and principals at the school level. These steps are part of the pursuit of excellence as the only acceptable standard of achievement in our programs, services, activities, facilities and relationships.

He seeks to emphasize and strengthen the distinctiveness of our education system, our Catholicity. Through his many encounters with school staff and the parent community, he provides reflections on our responsibilities as Catholics, particularly towards our students. He guides new teachers through orientation sessions, to ensure that they too will have the tools to contribute to the individual and collective spiritual growth and nourishment of the students.



As an advocate for the Constitutional rights of all Catholic children, he devoted much time and expertise to the initial research into the extension of Catholic secondary education throughout our jurisdiction. "Our Catholic schools are Catholic Christian Learning Communities," stated Yaguchi in his entry plan. "As a Catholic school system ensuring the Christian formation of our youth, we are more effective in partnership with our parents and our parishes. The right to a Catholic education is a precious heritage that we must all protect and defend." In October, he will help further share this message through a community symposium entitled 'Ontario Catholic Education: The Enduring Gift... Connecting Schools, Parishes and Families'.

During his career, he has worn many hats, starting off as a classroom teacher then department head. He next was a school administrator in both elementary and secondary schools. He eventually worked at the system level, first providing academic support, and eventually served as director of education for three Catholic school boards in Northern Ontario. He has also contributed to the life of the many communities that he has called home by serving as town councillor, as publicity chairman for the Alexandria Lions Club, as minor hockey coach, on the Board of the Glengarry Inter-Agency Group, and as a member of several committees. Most recently, he has served as Chair of the Northern Ontario Catholic Curriculum Cooperative, an organization which focuses on the integration of Catholic faith through the development of classroom curriculum resources and in-service sessions to 11 Catholic school boards from Moosonee to the Manitoba border.

Chair of the Board Colleen Landers appreciates the contributions that Mr. Yaguchi continues to make throughout his mandate. "For the past four years, he has been guiding our Catholic school system as a knowledgeable director, a skilled facilitator, a faith leader and a fervent educator," states Landers. "Larry always provides valuable considerations in our decision-making, and provides us with dependable implementation plans when we embark on new projects. We will certainly miss his insight and direction, but at the same time, we wish him well as he enjoys a well deserved retirement with his family."

**For more information, please contact:
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