

NCDSB AND CSCDGR REACH AGREEMENT FOR KIRKLAND LAKE: STUDENTS WILL 'ACCESS THE BEST IN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES'

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board is pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached with the Conseil scolaire catholique de district des Grandes Rivières. A motion was ratified by the NCDSB at a special board meeting on July 20, 2004 regarding the exchange of parcels of land in the Kirkland Lake area to better meet the needs of both school systems. As a result, the Sacred Heart School property will see a new and much enhanced play area for all of its students.

The Board has taken the necessary steps to study the parcel of land in question, and is confident that the new area will better serve the students while meeting standards. "The Sacred Heart School community will have a brand new school yard for its students, which will include a basketball court and sand and sodded play areas," stated Board Trustee Brenda Hevenor. "The area will not only provide recreation at recess and for school events, but may also be used for curriculum delivery as a site for outdoor physical education classes."

In addition, the two boards have agreed to establish a protocol to give the NCDSB the opportunity to access the new French Catholic high school facilities (e.g. gymnasium, library, laboratories, etc...). This initiative will give the Board the option to extend English Catholic education into the secondary panel in Kirkland Lake and the surrounding areas.

"Clearly, this new partnership initiates a new era of cooperation and opportunity for both partners," explained Chair of the Board Colleen Landers. "One of the hopes of our Board has been the possibility of extending English Catholic secondary education throughout our district. We have been open to working with anyone and everyone to fulfill this dream. And while many factors would have to fall into place for such a project to proceed, this new partnership with Grandes Rivières provides us with some interesting facility options worthy of consideration."

This agreement represents another major initiative by the NCDSB in the Kirkland Lake area. "Last year, we transformed the learning environments at Sacred Heart School and St. Jerome School, with many renovations to meet the new grade structure," explained Board Trustee Steve Malciw. "We are currently building on this model, by constructing a family studies room and woodworking shop for the students at Sacred Heart School, which will pave the way for their new technology program. Now, with the enhanced play area and the link to the new French Catholic secondary school facilities, our English Catholic students in Kirkland Lake will truly be able to access the best in educational resources."

For more information, please contact:

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