

## **CATHOLIC BOARD RATIFIES COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT WITH OECTA REGULAR TEACHERS BARGAINING UNIT**

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board and the Northeastern Unit of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association are pleased to announce that they have reached an agreement. The collective agreement, which was ratified at the November 27, 2004 Board meeting, extends until August 31, 2006.

This new agreement provides for a wage parity adjustment. There will be a two percent increase effective September 1, 2004, followed by a further two percent increase the second year. The provisions of the agreement are in conformity with education funding regulations set by the Ministry, which provide for salary benchmarks to increase by two percent in 2004-2005 and in 2005-2006.

The concerted effort by both parties to negotiate in good faith and to reach consensus will ensure the continuation of program delivery. "The achievement of our students is a top priority for our Board, and we have within our system a very competent group of educators who are committed to this goal," stated Director of Education Paul Toffanello. "The retention and recruitment of such quality teachers is of key importance in order to ensure the best learning opportunities now and in the future. As a Catholic school system, we are committed to principles of fairness and equity, and we believe that the contract reflects these values. In addition to wage adjustments, we will also continue to provide teachers with meaningful professional and spiritual development experiences. Our intent is to further build this team of professionals who guide our students along their faith and learning journeys on a daily basis."

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board provides service and direction to twelve elementary schools and one secondary school within the Cochrane and Timiskaming Districts of Northern Ontario, with administrative offices located in Timmins and Kirkland Lake. Approximately 190 teachers are employed with the Board.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Mélanie Bidal-Mainville** or  
**Community Relations Officer**  
**NCDSB**

**Sheila Hill**  
**President**  
**OECTA**



**Northeastern Catholic District School Board**  
**101 Spruce St. North, Timmins, ON P4N 6 M9**  
**Tel: 268-7443 Fax: 264-0333**  
**Paul Toffanello, Director of Education Colleen Landers, Chair of the Board**  
**www.ncdsb.on.ca**

**Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association -** NORTHEASTERN UNIT  
**Box 1382, Haileybury, ON P0J 1K0**  
**Tel: 672-3647 Fax: 672-3647**  
**Sheila Hill, President**  
**www.oecta.org**

