

## CLAIRE LAMARRE-GOYER NAMED 'PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR' BY PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION

NCDSB Principal Claire Lamarre-Goyer received a prestigious award recently at the annual conference of the Catholic Principals Council of Ontario (CPCO). Claire was selected by her peers as Catholic Principal of the Year. The Award is presented annually to a deserving Principal in each of the five areas of the province for outstanding school and community leadership.

Director of Education Paul Toffanello is pleased that Lamarre-Goyer was selected as the recipient of this honour. "Claire is so deserving of this acclaim considering her dedication, loyalty, perseverance in tough times, and willingness to move into various challenging leadership roles," states Toffanello. "Throughout her career, Claire has demonstrated a growth in leadership that, in my opinion, was second to none. She is well respected by her peers and stands clearly as a role model for all of us."



Principal Claire Lamarre-Goyer returned to Sacred Heart School last week to visit her beloved students. Pictured above from left to right are Taylor Cooper, Claire Lamarre-Goyer, Stephanie Moncion and Michaela Duke.

One of the main focuses of her career has been to advocate for students with special needs, an objective that she has pursued with passion. "Over the past few years in Special Education, she has provided each and every school and Principal with the moral, psychological and spiritual support required," adds Toffanello. "She was always ready to tackle the difficult issues and make the difficult decisions. But what I am most proud of Claire is her capacity to see beyond the immediate need and or concern of others. She is a confreere, a confidante, and a wise, sagacious woman who I am most pleased to call friend."

Claire Lamarre-Goyer began her teaching career in 1978 with the Ottawa Board of Education at the Secondary level. After relocating to Timmins in 1980, she taught at Northern College of Applied Arts and Technology before re-entering the school system at O'Gorman High School in 1984. Claire held the position of Department Head for French as a Second Language for 10 years before taking on the role of Department Head for Student Services. She was named Principal of Sacred Heart School in Timmins in 1998, a French Immersion School. Throughout her career, she has served on various committees at the school and Board levels.



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In 2003, she was appointed to the position of Program Principal for Special Education for the Northeastern Catholic District School Board. As part of her mandate, she oversees the deployment of Special Education and the supervision of Special Education Resource Teachers, Educational Assistants and Child and Youth Workers. Under her leadership, the Board secured funding and participation in a special project through the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) to help increase the understanding of effective instructional strategies for all pupils, including those with special needs. The premise of the project is that all students can learn given appropriate time and support.

Lamarre-Goyer has also been involved in her community and her parish. She was a member of the Porcupine Concert Association in the early eighties, and has been involved with the Porcupine Music Festival de Musique for the past 25 years. She held various positions with this organization, including that of President, for which she was recognized by the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture on two occasions. Claire was also on the Bishop's Review Committee of French parishes in the late 1990s, and was involved in her parish's Renewal process. She has also served as reader and Eucharistic minister. In her spare time, Claire loves to read, do needlework, play the piano and take violin lessons. She has also been involved with the Timmins Symphony Orchestra Choir. She has been married to her husband Claude for almost 28 years and has one son, François. She credits their love and constant support as contributing to her career.

The Principal of the Year Award is the icing on the cake for Lamarre-Goyer, who will be retiring at the end the current school year. Her impending departure brings a sense of melancholy, but also of best wishes for a well deserved retirement. She will be leaving a big part of herself behind through her contributions to the success of this Board. We thank her for her continued effort in serving all of God's children.

**For more information, please contact:  
Mélanie Bidal-Mainville  
Community Relations Officer  
Northeastern Catholic District School Board**

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Northeastern Catholic District School Board  
101 Spruce Street North  
Timmins, Ontario P4N 6M9  
Tel: (705) 268-7443 Fax: (705) 264-0333  
[www.ncdsb.on.ca](http://www.ncdsb.on.ca)

P. Toffanello, Director of Education  
C. Landers, Chair of the Board