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**NORTHEASTERN CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
"You Are The Light of The World!"

NEWS RELEASE

NCDSB Approves Pupil Accommodation Review

Timmins, May 19, 2011:

Due to declining enrolment or population shifts within their jurisdiction, the Northeastern Catholic District School Board recognizes that from time to time, it may have to realign or review the current number of its schools. At its Wednesday, May 19th Board meeting, the Board approved a Pupil Accommodation Review for the 2011-2012 school year for Sacred Heart School in Kirkland Lake and St. Jerome School in Kirkland Lake.

In order to complete this review with minimum disruption while respecting the needs of the student, the wishes of the parents, and the financial limitations of the Board, the Board shall follow its Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines prior to any decision regarding the future of a school.

The guidelines ensure that the decision is made with the full involvement of an informed local community and it is based on a broad range of criteria regarding the quality of the learning experience for the students.

In recognition of the important role schools play in strengthening rural and urban communities and the importance of healthy communities for student success, it is also expected that decisions consider the value of the school to the community, taking into account other government initiatives or partnerships aimed at strengthening communities.

The guidelines recognize that, wherever possible, an accommodation review should focus on a group of schools within the Board's planning area rather than examine a single school. These schools would be reviewed together because they are located close enough to the other schools within a planning area to facilitate the development of viable and practical solutions for student accommodation.

Rick Brassard, Board Chair, stated, "The Board is responsible for providing schools and facilities for its students and for operating and maintaining their schools as effectively and efficiently as possible to support student achievement. Given the current economic state in the Kirkland Lake region, we thought it prudent to undertake the accommodation review of these two schools next year."

More information about the Pupil Accommodation Review Committee and timelines for public meetings will be announced in the very near future.

For more information, please contact:

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