



## Conseil scolaire du Sud de l'Alberta

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### COMMUNIQUÉ

March 18, 2009

#### **The two Francophone School Boards in southern Alberta are exploring the possibilities of a partnership that could lead to a merger into a blended Board: Public and Catholic.**

Indeed, the Conseil scolaire du Sud de l'Alberta (CSSA) and the Conseil scolaire catholique et francophone du Sud de l'Alberta (CSCFSA) entered into a dialogue with the aim of studying the possibility of a partnership that could lead to the possible amalgamation of the two School Authorities. The discussions have so far identified several objectives that would better be addressed by merging the two school boards. First, their common mandate to support the development of the Francophone community, enhance the construction of identity among Francophone students and provide quality educational services to students of "right-holder" families.

The two boards also agree on the great need to support a network of French-speaking preschools (ECS) and Francophone day care centers. They also want to assess the merits of jointly establishing a high-school for the City of Calgary. Finally, they wish to work together to better contribute to the growth and the development of Francophone communities in southern Alberta.

In a common desire to seek the views of all interested parties regarding the anticipated partnership, a consultation will be held with the parents and Francophone communities of Airdrie, Brooks, Calgary, Canmore, Cochrane, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Okotoks, the staff of the schools and the staff of both administration offices. In addition, the two School Boards will consult the following agencies: the provincial government, particularly Alberta Education, the Catholic Diocese of Calgary, the Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta (FCSFA), the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta (ACFA), the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA), the Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association (ACSTA), the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS), the College of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA) and others.

The CSSA and CSCFSA have jointly established a steering committee to lead the consultation phase and, if necessary, to manage the development phase of the administrative structure that will be submitted to Alberta Education for approval. This steering committee will consist of:

- Ms Anne-Marie Boucher, Chair of CSSA
- Ms Diane Boutin, Chair of CSCFSA
- Mr. Gérard Auger, Superintendent of CSSA
- Mr. Florent Bilodeau, Superintendent of CSCFSA

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