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PRESS RELEASE

Calgary, April 9, 2010 - The Conseil scolaire du Sud de l'Alberta (CSSA) and the Conseil scolaire catholique et francophone du Sud de l'Alberta (CSCFSA) mandate their steering committee to submit a formal request to the Minister of Education for the establishment of a Francophone Regional Authority "FRA (South)".

On April 8, 2010, at a special meeting of each Board, the CSSA and CSCFSA authorized the steering committee to submit to the Minister of Education, the Honourable Dave Hancock, a formal request to dissolve the CSCFSA and the CSSA and establish one Francophone Regional Authority (FRA) for the Greater Southern Francophone Education Region No. 4.

The trustees of the CSSA and CSCFSA made this decision after evaluating the results of the 14 consultation sessions held with their school communities between February 22 and March 24.

According to Anne-Marie Boucher, Chair of the CSSA, "An important factor that influenced both francophone school boards to take action was the support to the project by 87.6 % of electors who participated in the consultation sessions."

Diane Boutin, Chair of the CSCFSA added, "This is an important step for the quality of Francophone education and development of the greater Francophone community in southern Alberta." She also stated, "French Catholic education will also experience an improvement since the sole mandate of the Corporation of Separate School Members of the FRA will be to ensure its quality and its enhancement."

In order to ensure an equitable and fair governance structure, that respects the rights and priorities of the major partners in the new Francophone Regional Authority (South), the project put forward by the CSSA and CSCFSA requests the Minister to approve a board of eight trustees: four Catholic and four public trustees. In addition, the trustees will be divided equally between Calgary (4 trustees: 2 public and 2 Catholic) and the west and east regions (4 trustees: 2 public and 2 Catholic).

In their resolution to authorize the steering committee to move forward on the establishment of an FRA (South), the CSSA and the CSCFSA asked that the new Francophone Regional Authority (South) be established in time for the start of 2010-2011 school year.

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