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For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE

Calgary, March 11th, 2011 – The Greater Southern Public Francophone Education Region No.4 and The Greater Southern Separate Catholic Francophone Education Region No.4 announce the establishment of a joint administration for the two Boards.

The two Regional Authorities have decided to establish a common administration for the coming school years. The political structure of the Boards will remain the same for the foreseeable future.

This decision is part of a process to create a Francophone Regional Authority (FRA - South) for southern Alberta. The project aims to better meet student needs and bring together the southern Francophone community. The proposed structure had been supported by the various communities.

On April 8th, 2010, the two Boards requested that the Minister of Education dissolve the two Boards and that a Francophone Regional Authority (FRA) for the Greater Southern Francophone Education Region No. 4 be established.

In a letter received on February 7th, 2011, the Minister of Education reiterated his support for the project. However, he feels that the proposed make-up of the FRA needs to be re-considered.

In response to the Minister's position, the Boards decided to move forward to an interim phase of management: starting August 1st, 2011, both central office staff will work as a single administration. The Public Board and the Catholic Board will govern their respective schools, while promoting cooperation between the two organizations and continuing to work to establish an FRA.

The two Boards believe that this decision will allow them to get closer to their goal of providing better educational services to the students in their 13 schools. Further discussions will be held to determine the next steps to establish a Francophone Regional Authority.

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