



May 2, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Once again, I write to you with significant news.

- 1) On April 28, the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association (SCSBA) announced that an appeal of the recent decision in the Theodore court case will be filed on behalf of Christ the Teacher School Division. The decision to appeal has been unanimously endorsed by all eight Catholic school boards in the province. "The legal team representing Christ the Teacher School Division in this case has carefully reviewed the trial judge's lengthy decision, and we believe that there are several strong grounds for appeal," said SCSBA spokesperson Tom Fortosky.
- 2) On May 1, Premier Brad Wall announced the Government of Saskatchewan will protect school choice in Saskatchewan by invoking the notwithstanding clause of *The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. In a news release, Premier Wall said. "We wanted to announce this now to provide clarity and provide parents with the assurance that they will be able to continue to choose the kind of school they want their children to attend."
- 3) Does this mean the SCSBA still needs to continue with an appeal? The answer is YES since we need to remove the decision of Justice Layh to not fund non-Catholic students in our schools.
- 4) Does this mean the government does not have to appeal because they have invoked the notwithstanding clause? The answer is NO – we hope the government will in fact further support our appeal by launching an appeal of their own against Justice Layh's decision.

This is very good news for you as parents as it removes the uncertainty some of you were feeling after the April 20 ruling in the Theodore case. Know that things will continue as usual within our division for the foreseeable future. We will continue to provide the same fully funded, high quality Catholic education in partnership with our families, church and community for anyone who chooses that for their children. We are proud of the education our Catholic schools provide, and we believe Catholic education matters!

I remind you to let your elected officials (the Minister of Education Don Morgan, Premier Brad Wall, and Leader of the NDP Trent Wotherspoon) know you endorse the government's actions to support parental choice in education.

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You can email a prepared letter directly from our website at <http://www.loccsd.ca/> and access the news releases using the following links:

Read the Government of Saskatchewan's news release:

<http://saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2017/may/01/notwithstanding-clause>

Read the SCSBA news release announcing the appeal:

<http://www.scsba.ca/>

If you would like to read these documents and do not have access to a computer, please ask your local school for copies.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Glen Gantfoer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Glen Gantfoer  
Board Chair