

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2007

**Subject: Minister of Education Visit To
Immaculate Conception**

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**CATHOLIC DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD OF
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Immaculate Conception Catholic School Welcomes Minister of Education Kathleen Wynne

Cornwall, ON – Immaculate Conception Catholic School in Cornwall hosted Minister of Education Kathleen Wynne on Tuesday, January 30, 2007. Minister Wynne announced provincial funding of \$34 million for French as a Second Language (FSL).

Minister Wynne had the opportunity to visit two classes while at Immaculate Conception. Ms. Heather Wilson's Grade 1-2 class presented the Minister with a copy of the book The Best Part of Me along with a student written classroom version of the book. Ms. Suzanne Higgins' Grade 2 French Immersion class treated the Minister to a traditional French-language poem and dance.

Principal Donna Nielsen stated, "It was an honour to open our doors to the Minister and show her some of the wonderful things taking place at Immaculate Conception every day. The Minister showed a genuine concern for students and teachers. It was a pleasure to have Minister Wynne at our school."

Also in attendance for the Ministry's announcement was Board Chair Ron Eamer. "I am pleased the Minister chose Immaculate Conception to make this announcement. Anytime the Ministry of Education commits additional funding to programs, it is good news for our system," said Mr. Eamer. "The staff and students should all be very proud, not just of today, but of the dedication they bring to Catholic education every day."

Director of Education Bill Gartland said, "Mrs. Nielsen and her staff have put forth a wonderful effort in presenting the benefits of Catholic education and the importance of the school community. We are pleased to have had the opportunity to host Minister Wynne and look forward to continued positive dialogue with the Ministry of Education. We appreciate the funding announcement made today, as it will have a positive impact on French as a Second Language delivery for our Board."

Also in attendance were Board Vice-Chair, Nancy Kirby; Trustee for Cornwall-Glengarry, Todd Lalonde; Superintendent of Education, Jane McMillan; Superintendent of Business, Gordon Greffe; and Catholic Student Trustee Caitlin Sigg.

Ms. Sigg, a St. Mary Catholic High School Student from Brockville, attended the event with St. Mary CHS Principal Tom Whelan. Ms. Sigg had the opportunity to thank the Minister for the increased funding and shared her experiences in FSL, including a student exchange to France. “I truly appreciate the benefit of knowing a second language. I thank you very much Minister Wynne for encouraging students to seek the opportunity to learn a second language.”

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario operates 40 elementary and 10 secondary schools across 8 counties. The CDSBEO offers excellence in Catholic education through provincial-leading programs to approximately 15,000 students.