



May 2016

Re: Education Property Tax - Declaration of Separate School Support

Dear Catholic Elector:

STAR Catholic School Division is committed to ensuring a strong connection with Catholic electors in all of its communities. Catholic education is funded through education property taxes, grants and general provincial revenue. As a Catholic elector, you need to be aware of your right to support your Catholic schools through your property taxes. This right provides a vital connection between Catholic separate school boards and you, their electors.

Taxes declared in support of the Catholic separate school division benefit the children we serve. The Constitution Acts of Canada and the Alberta School Act stipulate that individuals who are Catholic must direct their education taxes to Catholic separate school boards where they exist.

To ensure your property taxes are supporting your Catholic separate school, you must declare your school support as "separate" on your annual property assessment notice and tax bill. If a declaration of school support is not filed by a property owner, the property assessment and tax bills show the school support going to the public school division. If your support designation is incorrect, it should be corrected by completing and submitting a School Support Declaration form, obtained from your local city, town or municipal office. A change in school support does not take effect until the following calendar year.

Thank you for advocating for your faith-based schools and your right to support them with your local taxes.

Yours in Catholic Education,

John Tomkinson
Board Chair