



May 2019

Re: Education Property Tax – Declaration of Separate School Support

Dear Catholic Elector:

As a Catholic elector, you need to be aware of your right to support your Catholic schools through your property taxes. The Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA) firmly believes that the education property tax provides a vital connection between Catholic separate school boards and you, their electors. Catholic boards requisition municipalities for education property taxes and do so for sound sociological, denominational and political reasons.

**3 Critical reasons why Catholic separate boards requisition municipalities for education taxes:**

1. It recognizes and affirms the constitutional right of Catholic separate school boards to requisition municipalities for education taxes.
2. Taxation is a vital connection between school boards and their electors. It serves as a means of accountability for school trustees to provide quality education to those in their local communities, including those without school-aged children.
3. It provides a stable source of funding for public education and allows for a public declaration of support by electors for Catholic education.

To ensure your property taxes are supporting your Catholic separate school, you must declare your 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 district. 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,

Michelle Lamer  
Board Chair