



ALGONQUIN AND LAKESHORE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

1998-2008 - Celebrating a decade of Leading and Learning with Faith!

WE THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2008

Catholic partners endorse Child Protection Policy

Five agencies have partnered with the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board in publicly endorsing the Board's Child in Need of Protection Policy and Administrative Procedures. The representatives signed a preamble at the Board's Napanee office today.

Representing the Board were Director of Education Michael Schmitt, Chair of the Board Wilf Garrah and Vice-Chair Brian Kerby. Other partner agencies signing the formal agreement were the City of Kingston and County of Frontenac Children's Aid Society, the Hastings Children's Aid Society, the Lennox & Addington Family & Children's Services, the Prince Edward Children's Aid Society and the Nipissing & Parry Sound Children's Aid Society. The preamble stated that the agencies represented "are partners who share the responsibility for the protection and well being of our children and youth. The reporting of concerns that children are in need of protection is a responsibility of all professionals and citizens alike. Only through reporting can protective actions to assist the child be instituted. To this end, every effort will be made to co-operate and share information."

The Board's Child Protection Policy is based on six principles:

- Every human being has an inherent value and their self-esteem, personal dignity and individual rights must be respected.
- Children and youth, our hope for the future, are entitled to first call on our energy and resources.
- The care and education of "our" children and youth is the combined responsibility of home, school, parish, Children's Aid Society/Family and Children's Services of our region.
- It is the responsibility of the employees of the District School Boards to report to the Children's Aid Society/Family and Children's Services any suspicion that a child may be in need of protection as defined in section 37(2) of the Child and Family Services Act.
- It is the responsibility of the social work staff of the Children's Aid Society/Family and Children's Services to respond to and/or investigate reports that a child may be in need of protection.
- The employees of the District School Boards and social work staff of the Children's Aid Society/Family and Children's Services will work together effectively to protect children from abuse and/or neglect.

Michael Schmitt
Director of Education

Wilf Garrah
Chair of the Board

Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board

151 Dairy Avenue
Napanee, Ontario
K7R 4B2
Fax: (613) 354-0351

Telephone: (613) 354-2255
Automated Attendant (613) 354-6257
Toll Free: 1-800-581-1116

www.alcidsb.on.ca