

Sod Turning for St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy Honours a Legacy of Catholic Education & Indigenous Heritage!

[February 19, 2019, Morinville, AB]

Today, Greater St. Albert Catholic School Officials will be joined by dignitaries, project partners, and community members to take the first ceremonial dig on the construction of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy in the Westwinds development.

The school is set to open in September 2020, and will continue the strong legacy of faith based education in the community while honoring its' namesake St. Kateri, the first Native American to be canonized in the Church. While her life was short, she died at the age of 23; St. Kateri is affectionately called the "Lily of the Mohawks." Her name Tekawitha means, "putting things in order." "During her short but profound life, St. Kateri was an exemplary model and witness to our Catholic faith," commented Board Chair, Joe Becigneul. "The Sod Turning is a milestone for the project that honours St. Kateri, and reflects a growing and strong community in Morinville. Building new schools for our students is one of the most important investments we can make for the future of this community and the surrounding region that accesses Catholic education in our Morinville schools."

This is the first school the District has built in the Town since Morinville Community High School opened in 1994. St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy will address current and future growth at the elementary level. The District completed consultation on attendance areas and programming last year and will provide education for pre-kindergarten to grade five children. In response to community interest, the school will offer English programming that includes dynamic options, a Sports Academy (Gym, Cheer, Dance, Hockey) and a strong academic focus. The ceremony will take place today from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the site in the Westwinds development, where the school will be built."

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