



Greater St. Albert
Catholic Schools

Greater St. Albert Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 734

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Naming of New Schools Honours Heritage and Legacy of Excellence

For Immediate Release

February 23, 2016 (St. Albert, Legal, Morinville) The Greater St. Albert Board was cheering last night following the unanimous approval of the names for their two new schools; a K-9 elementary in St. Albert and a K-6 elementary in Morinville. Board Chair, Noreen Radford addressed her fellow colleagues by commending the work of the committees who deliberated on possible namesakes for each of the schools. Radford commented “the rich heritage of the District became evident in the depth of names reviewed by the committees.”

Superintendent, David Keohane presented the top three names selected by the committees for each of the new schools, and the Board unanimously approved *Sister Alphonse Academy* for the St. Albert School and *St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy* as the namesake for the Morinville School. Both of these names have historical connections to the District and to the Catholic Faith. Sister Alphonse was the first teacher at the St. Albert Mission and began at the age of 23 and was remembered by the Grey Nuns as being “jovial, resourceful; a real sunshine for somber days.” She focused on connecting with First Nations communities by learning the Cree language. Sister Alphonse’s gentleness and determination of self-sacrifice as one who “cares” and “shares” resonated with the Board. St. Kateri is the first Native American to be canonized in the Church and while her life was short, she died at the age of 23. St. Kateri is affectionately called the “*Lilly of the Mohawks*.” Her name Tekawitha means “putting things in order.” St. Kateri was canonized to sainthood in 2012.

Board Chair, Noreen Radford commented “*both individuals are inspiring leaders, and outstanding models and witnesses to the Catholic faith. Recognizing both of our schools as Academies will ensure that our District will offer unique programming for students that will inspire them to model the namesake of their schools in being their very best.*”

Sister Alphonse Academy will be built on the Jensen Lakes site in St. Albert and St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy will be constructed in the Westwinds Development in Morinville. Both are in the conceptual design phase and have a planned opening in 2018. For more information, please contact:

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Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools

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