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# Bill 2 & You

## Information Sheet

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The Government of Alberta is currently working to pass *Bill 2: The Education Act* which will change the face of education in Alberta. If passed, Bill 2 has the potential to seriously effect publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta, Catholic school boards, and Catholic schools, teachers, staff, and students. The Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA) is urging you to get involved; become aware of the issues and take action.

How does Bill 2 effect you?

### 1. Shared Facilities

Bill 2 allows for the Minister to share Catholic and Public schools facilities with each other. Alberta's Catholic schools are unique. Every aspect of Alberta's Catholic schools is filled with the Catholic faith, from the building structure, to the curriculum, to the recognition of Catholic Gospel values and Sacramental life. To maintain this uniqueness, Catholic schools must remain distinct and separate entities.

### 2. Joining together of School Divisions Consisting of Public School Districts, Separate School Districts and School Divisions

Bill 2 allows for the Minister to combine Separate (Catholic) boards together with Public boards - a "blended board". The ACSTA strongly believes that separate school districts are, like our Catholic schools, unique entities that must remain distinct. The ACSTA believes that a separate school division may only be comprised of separate school districts or separate school divisions and does not support the potential for "blended boards" to exist. The ACSTA supports stand alone boards.

### 3. Diversity and Respect Provisions

The ACSTA supports Catholic parents as the primary educators of their children. The ACSTA believes that the Education Act must reflect this primacy of the home and parents as primary teachers.

What you can do?

It is imperative that Catholics in Alberta make their voice known on this Issue. The ACSTA is calling on all Catholics to contact their MLAs and tell them:

- No to Shared Facilities
- No to Blended Boards
- Yes to Recongizing the Role of the Parent as Primary Educator

Your MLA can be found at: [http://www.assembly.ab.ca/net/index.aspx?p=mla\\_home](http://www.assembly.ab.ca/net/index.aspx?p=mla_home)

For more information, contact your local Catholic board and/or trustee and visit the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association website [www.acsta.ab.ca](http://www.acsta.ab.ca)