



Evergreen Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 2.

Media Release

For immediate release

St. Peter the Apostle unveiled as new regional high school



Teneal Kuczowski, Adam Frend, Board Chair Gerald Bernakevitch, Spruce Grove Mayor Stuart Houston, Father Paul Terrio, and Archbishop Richard Smith break ground for the new high school

Spruce Grove, Alberta: Elected officials and students joined Evergreen Catholic to turn the sod and mark the construction of Spruce Grove's newest regional high school—St. Peter the Apostle, which is set to open in fall 2012 and will have a capacity of 1,100 students.

“St. Peter the Apostle is the cornerstone of Catholic education in our division,” says Board Chair Gerald Bernakevitch. “It will be home to Catholic students from Spruce Grove, Stony Plain, and Devon and have the technology to reach and teach students in our schools in Westlock and Hinton.”



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The school is the Division's top capital priority and is needed to address the region's population growth. Spruce Grove Mayor Stuart Houston notes, "School space is at a premium." Former Edmonton Catholic School Trustee and current Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education, MLA Janice Sarich highlighted the school's importance to the community. "The high school will not only serve the students but the needs of the community. Whether it is the common area or two large gyms, St. Peter the Apostle will be a gathering place for everyone."

Archbishop Richard Smith of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton delivered the site blessing ceremony and acknowledged that the event coincided with the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. "We insist on education excellence in our schools. We also insist that the faith is handed on just as it was by the Apostle Peter."

Teneal Kuczkowski and Adam Frend represented students at the site blessing and both will be the members of the school's first graduating class. Kuczkowski says, "Everyone in our grade is really excited about the possibility of going to the new school. It's going to be a great school and the location is perfect being so close to the church." Frend adds, "I'm really impressed with the size of the school. Having two gyms is going to be a huge benefit to us."

A total of 48 different names were submitted to the Evergreen Catholic Regional Division for consideration. While the name Holy Trinity made the shortlist, the Board decided to name the school after St. Peter. "It is the only Catholic high school in the province to be named in honour of St. Peter the Apostle," adds Superintendent Cindi Vaselenak. "The school will also be affectionately known as 'The Rock' after the scripture passage that says 'You are Peter and on this rock I will build my church.'"

The Evergreen Catholic Regional Division provides Christ-centered schools to prepare students to live as compassionate, competent, and contributing citizens. Evergreen Catholic serves approximately 3,600 students in the Catholic communities of Devon, Hinton, Spruce Grove, Stony Plain, and Westlock. For more information, please visit www.ecsrd.ca.

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