



For release: April 30, 2020

Additional Staff Layoffs

The Edmonton Catholic School Division will begin informing 67 part-time Light Duty Custodians today that they will be temporarily laid off as of May 30, 2020. All layoffs are a result of funding changes made by Alberta Education following the cancellation of classes due to COVID-19. The provincial government announced funding cuts and Divisions were asked to layoff educational assistants, replacement staff and other staff in positions deemed non-essential while students are out of school.

“It is disappointing that these additional layoffs are required but the reality is that we do not know how long students will be learning remotely,” said Robert Martin, Superintendent, Edmonton Catholic Schools. “Light Duty Custodians are an important part of our school division and we value their commitment to maintaining safe and clean schools and sites,” added Martin.

Light Duty Custodians are part of the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE) union and require 30 days notice before being laid off. As part of our continued commitment to these employees, the Edmonton Catholic School Division will:

- Continue health benefits through to the end of August 31, 2020.
- Maintain employee access to email and technology so that staff stay connected to the Division and receive all Division messaging and updates.
- Provide information regarding federal government financial supports and information.
- Maintain Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) support to employees and their family.

“The provincial government’s reduction to funding has impacted so many employees and their families,” said Laura Thibert, Chair, Edmonton Catholic Schools. “Our Board will not rest until Alberta Education restores the \$5.7 million in funding to our Division once classes resume,” Thibert said.