

GrACE Update

GrACE officially launched across Alberta on Catholic Education Sunday, November 4, 2018.

At our very first GrACE board meeting, while finalizing the name for Alberta's new Catholic education advocacy group, one of the board members said, "Putting the word 'grateful' as the opening descriptor changes my own perspective of what we're doing. We are so, so blessed to have Catholic education in Alberta."

Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education (GrACE) is governed by 6 board members representing the partner boards of ACSTA, the Bishops of Alberta and CCSSA (Catholic superintendents of Alberta). Hired as Director of GrACE is Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico, recently retired associate superintendent with Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools.



#gottagracedgroup Elk Island Catholic

The hashtag **#IbelieveinCatholiceducation** has been used by many Catholic school districts to highlight their work in Catholic education.

GrACE meetings with Catholic school districts and their bishops have been hosted in every diocese in the province.

As February ends, a total of 115 stakeholders have participated in regional meetings and GrACE workshops.



#gottagracedgroup Edmonton Catholic

Regional workshops are scheduled for St. Paul, McLennan-Grouard, Red Deer Catholic and FrancoSud in March.

The hashtag **#gottagracedgroup** has been launched to celebrate each district's GrACE group as they are formed.

The 5 Marks of Catholic Schools, the history of Catholic education and current statistics have been shared at meetings and within the GrACE workshop and PowerPoint.

Workshop Participant Comments...

- “Absolutely looking forward to sharing and advocating for Catholic education. I am confident and ready.”
- “I am buoyed up by the realization that we are creating advocacy for Catholic education in all districts in the province! I have a sense that we are all in this together!”
- “I love uniting Catholics together with positive messages.”

Edmonton Diocese Workshop Participants

A GrACE Vision

Stage one of GrACE is to:

1. Mobilize, launch, speak to trustees, superintendents, bishops and district communicators. This has been done.
2. Meet with the Catholic school districts within each diocese. This has been done.
3. Create GrACE groups (through the leadership of trustees and superintendents) in each district by inviting willing, able and passionate champions for Catholic education.
4. Provide support and process from the center to each group through a GrACE workshop. Our goal is consistency of positive messaging, sharing of ideas, creating unity, speaking with one voice and ultimately engaging our communities.
5. Schedule engagement sessions within each district to engage, inspire and activate our supporters.

GrACE Facebook page is
www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed

GrACE Twitter address is [@GrACE4cathed](https://twitter.com/GrACE4cathed)

Email GrACE at gracedirector7@gmail.com

Getting your GrACE group connected

1. Establish. Take a picture. Post and share the good news around the province.
#gottagracegroup
2. Develop your advocacy plan.
3. Schedule engagement sessions.
4. Connect your communities with Catholic advocates across the province through GrACE Facebook and Twitter.
5. Post. Like. Retweet.
6. Gear up for **Catholic Education Week May 5-10** and **World Catholic Education Day on Thursday, May 9.**



#gottagracegroup Christ the Redeemer Catholic

The mission of **GrACE** is to inspire, invigorate and embolden the spirit of Catholic education in order to unite, engage, educate and communicate with one voice on its behalf. **GrACE** is a partnership of stakeholders resolutely committed to Catholic education within the province of Alberta.



#gottagracebook Calgary Catholic

The gift of publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta is a true blessing. As a community we are called in gratitude, faith and action to ensure that our children and future generations continue to learn and grow in our Catholic schools.



#gottagracebook STAR Catholic

50 days to Catholic Education Week!

Thanks to in-kind work with FrancoSud, Edmonton Catholic and CTR Catholic, a French logo and launch flyer have been translated and designed. Francophone boards are going strong with GrACE.



Workshop Participant Comments...

- *"I feel part of a larger community and family that can bring about change."*
- *"I enjoyed the small group discussion as an opportunity to share thoughts and ideas."*
- *"We are doing important work; especially being able to stand for something!"*

Calgary Catholic Workshop Participants