



*The Northwest Catholic  
District School Board*

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## PRESS RELEASE

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**September 1, 2009**

### **The Northwest Catholic District School Board Celebrates New Amalgamation with Atikokan Roman Catholic Separate School Board**

The Big News is that in June, the Ministry of Education determined that the isolate boards in Northwestern Ontario will be amalgamated with the Catholic and Public school boards in Northwestern Ontario. The Northwest Catholic District School Board will be amalgamating the Atikokan Roman Catholic Separate School Board as of September 1<sup>st</sup> 2009. "We are pleased to welcome the community of Atikokan and St. Patrick's School children and families to our Board", says Board Chair, Anne-Marie Fitzgerald. "St. Patrick's is a wonderful school with talented and caring staff who have had an excellent reputation as a Catholic school for many years." After attending the last Board Meeting of the Atikokan R.C.S.S. Board, it was very clear to the Chair, and the Director Mary-Catherine Kelly that , "this was a community that was proud of their Catholic school and celebrating the Catholic traditions in the community", says Mrs. Fitzgerald.

"We are pleased to have them join us! It is a win/win situation, Northwest Catholic has acquired a wonderful school and community that excels in academics, the arts, sports and has technological educational opportunities for students, and offers wonderful Catholic curriculum to the students. I think that the Atikokan principal and staff will enjoy being part of a larger board so that there are more opportunities for networking with colleagues and sharing of best practices" states Director of Education, Mary-Catherine Kelly. "They will be part of a team and they will benefit from support of administrative and professional development opportunities to continue to support the high academic achievement that we see in our Catholic schools across all of our Catholic school board" says Kelly. The Director attended the Inaugural Mass for the new principals, Guy Durand and the staff on Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup> to address the community and welcome both staff and students to Northwest Catholic. Director Kelly said that, "We know that they are a gift to us and we will cherish this new relationship."

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The Northwest Catholic District School Board  
555 Flinders Avenue  
Fort Frances, Ontario P9A 3L2  
Phone: 807-274-2931 Fax: 807-274-8792  
[www.tncdsb.on.ca](http://www.tncdsb.on.ca)

Mary-Catherine Kelly, Director of Education  
Anne-Marie Fitzgerald, Chair of the Board