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REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

FRIENDS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARD

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Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
November 23, 2015	December 10, 2015	10/12/2015
John W. Yan, Senior Coordinator, Communications, Public and Media Relations Mary Walker, Supervisor, Public Relations		
RECOMMENDATION REPORT		

Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



G. Poole

Associate Director of Academic Affairs

A. Sangiorgio

Associate Director of Planning and Facilities

Angela Gauthier

Director of Education

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Toronto Catholic District School Board annually honours the accomplishments of our alumni, staff and friends of Catholic education through two major awards: the *TCDSB Alumni Award* and the *TCDSB Award of Merit*.

The Nomination Committee for the *TCDSB Alumni Award* and *Award of Merit* seeks and reviews nominees each year and a final slate of recommended recipients is provided to the Board of Trustees for consideration and approval.

The *Alumni Award* is granted to accomplished alumni of the TCDSB who were students in a Toronto Catholic District School Board school, still active in the Catholic community, and who have distinguished themselves in their career or voluntary field of endeavour. The recipients are chosen from diverse areas of career and public endeavours. Current TCDSB employees and Trustees are not eligible. (See Appendix A for list of past winners).

The *TCDSB Award of Merit* was created to recognize outstanding contributions to the TCDSB and to Catholic education. Employees and/or Trustees are considered for the award after a three-year period has passed since their official departure from the TCDSB. (See Appendix B for list of past winners).

These two awards are presented along with other Board-wide awards at the *Annual Awards Night*, which is traditionally held on the first Monday in May to celebrate the launch of Catholic Education Week at the TCDSB. The awards anchor an exciting evening dedicated to acknowledging the many world-class achievements of our alumni, students, staff and friends of Catholic education.

Over the past several years, in reviewing criteria for these awards and during discussion about potential nominees, past and present members of the Nomination Committee have suggested that the current criteria for these two major awards do not necessarily permit recognition of individuals or organizations who are friends and well-known supporters of Catholic education, but **not** members of the Catholic faith.

As we celebrate this current pastoral *Year of the Family* at the TCDSB, it was determined that this would be the opportune time to officially recognize members of the Board's "Extended" family, by introducing a new award that highlights significant contributions to Catholic education by those outside our faith, but share our common mission, vision and goals.

It is suggested that this new award be created called the *Friends of Catholic Education Award*.

B. PURPOSE

Expanding the TCDSB's profile and relationship base outside of its traditional boundaries continues to be a major focus of our community engagement initiatives. The Board has established and maintained mutually beneficial relationships with a broad range of stakeholders and community members.

As the largest publicly funded Catholic School Board in Canada, the TCDSB has developed and continues to grow its significant and diverse network of supporters from professional associations, to all political levels of government and volunteer organizations. These individuals and groups play a critical role in the success of the Board through their support of our students and student achievement and wellbeing.

The *Friends of Catholic Education Award* would serve to recognize members of the public and/or organizations who have accomplished extraordinary service to Catholic Education but who may not be Catholic. In addition, the new award aligns well with the Enhancing Public Confidence pillar of the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan through the goal to: "Build and maintain community partnerships".

C. BACKGROUND

The perception is that the TCDSB's *Alumni Award* and *Award of Merit* nomination process does not allow for the recognition of individuals who are not Catholic but who have provided support to Catholic education.

Past and present members of the Nomination Committee have indicated that the current criteria for these two major awards do not necessarily permit recognition of individuals or organizations who are friends and well-known supporters of Catholic education, but who are not members of the Catholic faith.

D. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Pursuant to the Board's **Policy F.F. 01: Awards, Funds and Scholarships**, the *Friends of Catholic Education Award* is consistent and in harmony with our gospel values and our Catholic Graduate Expectations, as it will be bestowed upon only those individuals who have brought pride to Catholic education.

Like all awards granted under the auspices of the TCDSB and governed under this policy, the purpose is clearly articulated and will be accompanied by transparent selection criteria.

Prospective recipients will be nominated through an open and transparent process administered by the Communications Department under the oversight of the Awards Nomination Committee.

Members of the Nomination Committee include:

- Chair of the Board of Trustees
- Past Chair of the Board of Trustees
- The Director of Education
- Member of the Archdiocese of Toronto
- President and CEO, Angel Foundation for Learning
- Superintendent of 21C
- Superintendent of Student Success
- Senior Manager, Archives and Records Management
- The Senior Coordinator, Communications, Public and Media Relations
- The Supervisor of Public Relations

E. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Once approved, a comprehensive communications plan will be implemented using all communications modalities within the Communication's Department's inventory to promote awareness and stakeholder engagement with regards to the new award.

The 2016 *Annual TCDSB Awards Night* takes place on Monday, May 2nd, with the *Friends of Catholic Education Award* presented alongside all other major award and achievements. The first recipient of this award will be highlighted on a

dedicated TCDSB webpage and take a rightful place among the long host of winners.

Due to the unique nature of the award, announcement of the inaugural recipient will be supported by a news release and other public profile opportunities as media interest may be high. However, this will be balanced by equal treatment given to winners of the longstanding TCDSB *Alumni Award* and *Award of Merit*.

F. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that a new award be created to recognize the extraordinary contributions of supporters of the work of our Board who may be non-Catholic and who represent our Catholic values. The award will be called *Friends of Catholic Education Award*.