



REPORT TO

SPECIAL BOARD

FRIENDS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARD SELECTION CRITERIA

Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.
John 15:13

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
February 8, 2016	February 24, 2016	February 24, 2016
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

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Associate Director of Planning and
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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*.

Over 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 the 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.

At the December 10, 2015 Board Meeting, Trustees approved the creation of the *Friends of Catholic Education Award*. It was recognized that this would be the opportune time to officially acknowledge members of the TCDSB's "extended" family, as the Board currently celebrates the pastoral Year of the Family. This award highlights significant contributions to Catholic education by those outside our faith who share our common mission, vision and goals.

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".

B. PURPOSE

At the December 10, 2015 Board Meeting, Trustees approved the motion:

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.

Arising out of the motion, Trustees directed the Awards Nomination Committee to report back to the Board of Trustees with selection criteria for the Award.

The scope and range of criteria for the Award was initially discussed during the October 22nd meeting of the Awards Nomination Committee. Final draft criteria was circulated to all members of the Committee after its January 20, 2016 meeting to provide additional opportunities for feedback. This report outlines the proposed selection criteria for nominees of the Friends of Catholic Education Award as the result of this process.

C. SELECTION CRITERIA FOR FRIENDS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARD

The *Friends of Catholic Education Award* was created to acknowledge significant contributions to Catholic education made by members of the general public and/or organizations who have accomplished extraordinary service to Catholic Education but who may not be Catholic.

The Award will be presented annually to individuals or representatives of organizations, who meet the criteria, at the annual TCDSB Awards Night held the first Monday of Catholic Education Week. The recipients will be presented with a plaque by the Director of Education and Chair of the Board on behalf of the TCDSB.

Selection Criteria

- Pursuant to the Board's **Policy F.F. 01: Awards, Funds and Scholarships**, the *Friends of Catholic Education Award* granted by the TCDSB will be in harmony with our gospel values and our Catholic Graduate Expectations, and bestowed upon only those individuals who will bring pride to Catholic education.
- The Friends of Catholic Education Award is open to members of the general public or organizations.
- The contribution of the nominee(s) is/are consistent with the TCDSB's goals and actions as outlined in the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP).
- Nominees must demonstrate significant contribution or support of the TCDSB's mission and vision as a Catholic School Board through actions that may include, but are not limited to the following key areas:
 - Overall engagement of students in learning to achieve the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations
 - Numeracy and literacy, including digital literacy
 - The Arts - including music, drama, creative, visual and performing arts
 - Innovation and collaboration
 - Physical, emotional, intellectual, mental and spiritual needs of youth
 - Learning and/or career opportunities for students
 - Community partnerships and outreach
 - Professional learning

- Excellence and innovation in education
- Peace and justice and/or the common good
- Effectiveness of Board operations or Governance
- Building a sustainable Catholic school system

Selection Process:

1. Nominations will be received using the current process with notification via the Communications Department and nomination forms provided for universal access online via the Board's website.
2. Nominations for the *Friends of Catholic Education Award* will be reviewed by the TCDSB Nomination Committee based on the Award's selection criteria.
3. The selected nominee's name, together with a summary of their contributions, will be provided in a formal Recommendation Report to Board for the approval of Trustees.
4. Recipients will be sent a letter of invitation from the Director and Chair to receive the *Friends of Catholic Education Award* at the annual TCDSB Awards Night which takes place the first Monday of Catholic Education Week.

D. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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

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

Members of the Nomination Committee:

- 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 Learning

- Superintendent of Student Success
- Senior Manager, Archives and Records Management
- The Senior Coordinator, Communications, Public and Media Relations
- The Supervisor of Public Relations
- At least one alumnus of the TCDSB

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.

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 the 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*.

The 2016 *Annual TCDSB Awards Night* takes place on May 2nd, the first Monday of Catholic Education Week, when *The Friends of Catholic Education Award* will be presented with all of the other major awards and achievements.

F. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the selection criteria for the *Friends of Catholic Education Award* be approved.