TCDSB Director of Education Ann Perron to Retire

The Toronto Catholic District School Board announces the retirement of Director of Education Ann Perron.

Among the many accomplishments during her tenure were the implementation of a balanced and sustainable multi-year budget plan, a review of school board governance and the initiation of a three-year pastoral plan to Nurture our Catholic Community Through Word, Worship and Witness.

In addition, Ms. Perron is proud of the Board’s Journey of Transformation which focused on technology enabled learning. This year that vision resulted in the roll out of “Technology Enabled Learning: Grade 7 Mathematics”, which provided each mathematics teacher with a laptop, 10 netbooks and three days of Professional Development with a focus on Mathematics.

“We want our students and staff to be connected to a rich knowledge base, have access to current and reliable resources and provide them with the tools they need to succeed,” says Ms. Perron. “Improving access to technology will stimulate new ideas and spark innovative thinking. Our students will be more engaged in their learning and better prepared to address the challenges ahead.”

She also introduced “The Director’s Voice” a monthly webcast that focuses on student leadership and parent engagement and other news from around the Board.

“Ann’s leadership and vision of strategic renewal for twenty-first century learning, her focus on building capacity for effective governance, as well as her passion for learning, has shepherded the TCDSB through a challenging period and has helped to lay the foundations for ongoing renewal,” says TCDSB Chair Ann Andrachuk. “We thank her for her contribution to Catholic education and wish her well in her future endeavours.”

Ann Perron began her career as an educator with the TCDSB in 1983. Her experiences as a teacher in both the elementary and secondary panels, as an elementary school principal, and as a Program Coordinator of Visual and Performing Arts, prepared her well to serve as the Provincial Coordinator for the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE). Her work with ICE gave her a provincial perspective and a key role in supporting the development and implementation of the Ontario Catholic School Graduation Expectations.

From ICE Ms. Perron went on to become a superintendent with the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (CDSBEO) and then in 2004 the Director of Education for the CDSBEO.
In September 2006 she was asked to join the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat as a Senior Executive Officer and in 2007 assumed the role of Interim Chief Education Officer. In September 2008, Ann was appointed as Strategic Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Education. She returned to TCDSB as Director of Education in March 2009.

“I am very proud of the many things that have been accomplished in partnership with our staff, our trustees and our parents during the past two-and-a-half years,” says Ms. Perron. “As I leave the Board, I am confident that publicly funded Catholic education will continue to be well served by the strong partnership between home, school and parish, with the common focus on student achievement.”

An RFP (Request for Proposal) has been issued for an executive search firm to assist the Board with the search for a new Director of Education for September 2011.

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The Toronto Catholic District School Board educates approximately 90,000 students from diverse cultures and language backgrounds in its 201 Catholic elementary and secondary schools and serves more than 475,000 Catholic school supporters across the City of Toronto.