



Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Dear Parents / Guardians;

At a recent Board meeting, the Niagara Catholic District School Board approved initiating an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) for identified elementary schools in the City of Niagara Falls. This review will include St. Patrick, St. Joseph, Father Hennepin, St. Mary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Thomas More Catholic Elementary Schools.

Accommodation Review Committees assess schools within designated areas of a region that share particular challenges, such as aging facilities, decreasing enrolment, new residential developments, growing program demands and in some cases schools that maybe significantly affected by an accommodation review. The ARC process enables representatives from each of the schools involved, along with Parish Priests and representatives from the community to consider whether there are ways to organize schools differently to better accommodate the students who live in the area, while maintaining or enhancing the quality of each student's educational experience. A school's involvement in an ARC does not mean it is being necessarily considered for closure, even if that option can be considered for recommendation to the Director of Education by the ARC.

Over a period of ten (10) months, ARCs must assess each of the schools involved on the basis of the school's value to students, the school board, the community and the local economy according to specific criteria that are equally applied to all schools involved in the accommodation review. Following a prescribed time period of consultation and review of an ARC's final report, the ARC must then make a recommendation to the Director of Education on how students within the ARC's review should be accommodated. The work of the ARC and the comprehensive public input process, will facilitate a fair and appropriate accommodation decision for our students. All meetings of the ARC are public meetings with meeting dates published well in advance on the Boards web-site at [www.niagararc.com](http://www.niagararc.com), in school newsletters and local papers. All parents / guardians are invited to attend and observe the ARC discussions.

The members of the Niagara Falls ARC are in the process of being confirmed. Each school Principal, Catholic School Council Chair or designate, local Priests and a representative from the community at large will be a member of the Niagara Falls Accommodation Review Committee. We have asked Superintendent of Education John Crocco to Chair this important committee.

The first public meeting of the Niagara Falls Accommodation Review Committee will take place on **Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008** in the Mustang Theatre at Saint Michael Catholic High School, 8699 McLeod Road, Niagara Falls at 6.00 p.m. All parents / guardians are welcome to attend.

If you have any questions on the Niagara Falls ARC, please contact your school Principal or email Superintendent Crocco through his Administrative Assistant at [connie.garrod@ncdsb.com](mailto:connie.garrod@ncdsb.com) referencing the Niagara Falls Accommodation Review Committee.

Sincerely,

Angelo Di Ianni  
Director of Education/Secretary Treasurer