

Edmonton Society for  
Christian Education

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting Package



EDMONTON  
CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOLS

Join Us

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

7:00 PM



Edmonton Christian Northeast School

5940 159 Ave NW

## Notice of Meeting

The Special Resolution Meeting and Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Edmonton Society for Christian Education (ESCE) will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at Edmonton Christian Northeast School. The AGM will begin immediately following the Special Resolution Meeting, which starts at 7:00 PM. (Doors will open at 5:30 PM)

### **Location:**

Edmonton Christian Northeast School  
5940 159 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T5Y 0J5

All supporters of Edmonton Christian Schools and the Edmonton Society for Christian Education are warmly invited to attend the AGM as observers. Only active members of the Society are eligible to participate in meeting discussions and to vote.

### **Voting Process:**

- Ballots and voting instructions will be distributed to active members at the meeting and on Zoom.
- Votes on routine business matters may be conducted by a show of hands.
- Votes on the special resolution, the 2025–2026 budget, and the election of directors will be conducted by written ballot.
- Ballots must be issued by the Society. Any ballots altered or created by outside entities will not be accepted under any circumstance.

### **Questions?**

To help us prepare well and make the best use of our time together, we welcome questions in advance. Questions that come up during the meeting are still welcome. Please send any questions to [board@edmchristian.org](mailto:board@edmchristian.org).

### **Parking**

The staff parking lot will be reserved for members with low mobility. Space in the parking lot is limited. One bus loop will be reserved as a pickup and drop off zone for members.

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## Agenda

Special Resolution Meeting (SRM) and Annual General Meeting (AGM)

**Edmonton Society for Christian Education (ESCE)**

**Tuesday, June 3, 2025 | 7:00 PM and 7:15 PM**

**Edmonton Christian Northeast School & virtually via Zoom**

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**6:45 PM**

*Pre-meeting announcements*

*Logan Day*

- Announcements
  - Housekeeping and instructions for check-in, ballots, and online participation
- 

**7:00 PM**

*Special Resolution Meeting (SRM)*

*Logan Day*

- Welcome from the Chair
  - Opening Remarks
  - Opening Prayer
  - Call to Order of SRM
  - Statement of Purpose for the Special Resolution Meeting
  - Quorum confirmation
  - Motion to Approve Member-Proposed Bylaw Change
  - Voting & Ballot Collection (*Results to be shared later in the evening*)
  - Adjournment of SRM
- 

## **The Edmonton Society for Christian Education Annual General Meeting**

**7:15 PM**

*Annual General Meeting (AGM) Begins*

*Logan Day*

- Call to Order
  - Prayer and Opening Statement
  - Motion to Approve 2025 AGM Agenda
  - Motion to Approve 2024 AGM Minutes
- 

**7:22 PM**

## Board Elections

Jonathan Nicolai-deKoning & Melanie Dreger

- Introduction of Board-Nominated Candidates
  - Motion to Elect New Board Members
  - Call for Floor Nominations
  - Voting & Ballot collection *(Results to be shared later in the evening)*
- 

**7:42 PM** Introduction from Kyle Sandford *(Video)*

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**7:45 PM**

## Board-Proposed Special Resolution *(Only If Required)*

Jonathan Nicolai-deKoning

- Motion to Approve Board-Proposed Bylaw Change
  - Voting & Ballot Collection *(Results to be shared later in the evening)*
- 

**7:50 PM**

## 2025 - 2026 Budget Proposal

Loreen Austin and Chelsea Voogd

- Budget Presentation
  - Motion to Approve 2025 - 2026 Budget Proposal
  - Questions from the floor
  - Voting & Ballot Collection *(Results to be shared later in the evening)*
- 

**8:20 PM**

## Service Recognition

Logan Day

### Recognition of Service to ESCE and ECS

- Acknowledgement of Service to ESCE and ECS
  - Gift presentations by principals and Board Chair
- 

**8:40 PM**

## Ballot Results and Meeting Closure

Logan Day

### Official Announcement of Ballot Results

- Member-Proposed Bylaw Revision
- Board Elections
- 2025 Budget
- Board-Proposed Bylaw Revision *(if required)*

**8:45 PM – Motion to Conclude Business**

**8:47 PM – Motion to Preserve Ballots**

**8:49 PM – Motion to Adjourn AGM**

**8:50 PM – Closing Prayer**

# June 4, 2024, AGM Minutes

June 4, 2024, Edmonton Christian High School @ 7:30 pm

## 1. Call-To-Order

**Lindsay McDavid, Board Chair/Secretary**

- Quorum (45) has been reached with 794 in attendance
  - Opening remarks included a great show of engagement, recognizing the need to hear voices, reminding attendees of upcoming listening sessions, confirming there are zero discussions with EPSB - only rumors, and the need to focus on the business aspects of the AGM.
  - Introduction of Stephen Snyder and Russ McDermott
  - Floor - point of order - are we using Roberts Rules? What are the rules? Can a motion be made to approve the use of Robert's Rules
  - Legal Counsel - Neither the societies Act nor the bylaw prescribe the rules or procedures. Will recommend the proper rule be followed, when there is a lack of consistency, he will advise. Cannot motion and approve the use of Robert's Rules without amending bylaws. Will follow the most common sets of rules available. Primary consideration given to Robert's Rules.
  - Treaty 6 acknowledgement
  - Housekeeping items - silence phones, agm package review, emergency exits, washrooms.
- 
- Motion to accept the agenda for this meeting.
  - Moved by Keith Piquette and seconded by Neil Roberts.
    - a. Questions/Discussion:
      - i. Floor - Motions submitted ahead of time regarding ESCE board of directors 3rd party mediation and code of conduct policy but not included in the agenda. Why? Can they be amended?
      - ii. Legal counsel - not considered to be included in the agenda as they were not submitted within the required timeframe as outlined in the bylaws.
      - iii. Discussion around this, clarification and dispute regarding addition to the agenda.
      - iv. Motions revised and submitted:
        - 1. ESCE board of trustees consider implementing a 3rd party mediation policy by November 2024 whereby board members or society members can request mediation through PCCE.

Moved by Amy Nydam and seconded by Franklin Guillame.  
Motion carried and added to agenda.

2. ESCE considers implementing a code of conduct by November 2024.

Moved by Connie Dykstra and seconded by Franklin Guillame.  
Motion carried and added to the agenda.

- v. Legal counsel - advised that motions couldn't be amended in a way that would change the outcome.
  - vi. Discussion regarding 7 members required versus the validity of 5. Discussion regarding legal counsel was sought and advised the 5 members were sufficient as quorum is 5.
- Vote by all members - approval of the agenda with the addition of the two motions outlined above.  
Agenda accepted.
  - Floor - Point of Order and discussion - Do we follow Robert's Rules? What are Robert's Rules? Some feel it is problematic. Not asking to amend bylaws but to be adopted for this meeting.
  - Legal Counsel - This would amend the bylaws. The proposal is not within order. Cannot by way of a motion at the AGM, cannot amend the motion of the bylaws. Robert's rules but agreeable that it's restricted to just this meeting.
  - Decision - proceeding with Robert's Rules

2. **Opening Devotions and Prayer**  
**Executive Director**

**Keith Piquette, Acting**

3. **ESCE Business**

**Lindsay McDavid**

a. **2023 ESCE Annual General Meeting Minutes**

- i. Motion to Accept the ESCE 2023 AGM Minutes
  1. Moved by Ariel DeJong and seconded by Larissa Vogan.
- ii. Discussion/Questions
- iii. Vote by all members
  1. Motion carried.

b. **Election of New Board Members**

- i. Board Structure and Nominee Introduction
  1. Beneyam Zeleke reviewed the structure of the board, decision making process, reviewed the guiding principles, needs of the board, review process and nominee selection.



- ii. Overview of Board Structure
- iii. Nominee Introduction
  - 1. Logan Day, Melanie Dreger, Fola Olusoga, Chelsea Voogd
- iv. Call for Nominations from the Floor
  - 1. Discussion/Questions:
    - a. Floor - clarification and discussion around whether the board followed their own process. Calling into question the decision that was made and the people that were selected. Why were other nominees not selected who also have experience? Why was only one person per available position chosen rather than putting two names forward? Do floor nominees have the opportunity to speak or are their profiles circulated?
    - b. Board - discussed the board screening process and selection process. Screening done according to the bylaws.
  - 2. Floor Nominees moved by Larissa Vogan and seconded by Jacqueline VandenBorn.
    - a. Rebecca VandenBorn
    - b. Jonathan Nicolai-deKoning
    - c. Peter Buisman
    - d. Darlene Eerkes
    - e. Kevin Hofstede
  - 3. Floor nominee moved by Regan Skauge.
    - a. Jose Gonzalez (1 year term)
- v. Motion to accept the floor nominees.  
Motion carried.
- vi. Motion to hear from all floor nominees with a time limit of 3 minutes.  
Seconded by Roy Birchenbosch.  
Motion carried.
- vii. Point of Order - Based on bylaw section 9.1 where ballot is substantially changed, the absentee ballots should be invalid.  
Requesting the chair agree to substantive changes and invalidate the absentee ballots.
  - 1. Discussion/Questions: Negating opinions of people that aren't present and care about the schools but not in attendance.  
Disenfranchise people who sent in absentee ballots. Floor

nominees are a substantial change. Board was warned of the problem and should have amended the absentee ballot. Are the absentee ballots real people? Absentee ballots, voices should be heard. How were absentee ballots being validated?

2. Chair ruled not substantially altered.

- viii. Motion to appeal the ruling of the chair in regards to the absentee ballots moved by Glen BandenBorn and seconded.  
Motion carried. Therefore absentee ballots are invalid.

**c. Special Resolution - Bylaw Amendments**

- i. Presentation of Proposed Amendments
  1. Membership policy is currently very broad. Proposed changes to the bylaw intend to close off this loophole. Changes were provided in the AGM package.
- ii. Motion Approve the Amendments to Bylaws
  1. Moved by Ariel DeJong and seconded by Peter Eerkes.
- iii. Discussion/Questions
  1. Proposing to who can be a member. Expectation is to use the current membership guidelines. If the special resolution, it won't affect current membership. No assurance on how long the process will take. The bylaw tells me my opinion doesn't matter. Special member clause is very subjective. Urging to vote against.
- iv. Vote by all members  
Results under section 6.

**d. Budget Report**

**Ryan Hiusman**

- i. Presentation of the 2024-25 budget
- ii. Motion to Approve the Budget
  1. Moved by Ariel DeJong and seconded by Glen VandenBorn.
- iii. Discussion/questions
  1. Line of credit projects? Max of \$700K plus repayment equals \$643K. Senior high cafeteria perfectly balanced? Intent is a

cash balance with no profit made. Miscellaneous income decrease in funds? Portion decreased paid by staff. Amortization on page 23, what is it? Vehicles purchased 4 years ago. What type of roofing system is being installed? Number of quotes obtained, nothing committed to, only budgeted.

- iv. Vote by all members  
Results under section 7.

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Ray Donnelly and seconded by Tomas Kulikakas.

- Discussion/Questions.
  - Vote by all members.
- Motion not carried.

**e. Continuation of the Election of New Board Members**

- i. Reading of New Profiles (if applicable)
- ii. Motion to proceed with the vote to elect new board members
- iii. Discussion/Questions
  - 1. Unfair that 1000 people voted without the knowledge.
  - 2. The election will be illegal.
  - 3. Not fair and equitable.
  - 4. How can we re-vote if we already submitted an absentee ballot that is not invalidated?
  - 5. How to prevent someone from voting multiple times?
  - 6. Caution regarding lawsuit and fines. Unwise stewardship.
  - 7. If the original ballot is invalid, then it should be reissued.
- iv. Vote by all members
- v. Motion to table the nominations of new members until all members can have the full slate of candidates.
  - 1. Moved by Trevor Uitvlegt and seconded by Cameron Wilson  
Motion not carried.
- vi. Motion to allow everyone in attendance to vote tonight and reissue the absentees ballots for the absentees to vote based on the full slate of candidates including those nominated from the floor in a timely manner.

1. Moved by Daniel McDavid and seconded by Matthew Dirk  
Motion not carried.

vii. Motion to proceed straight to the vote without further discussion and without reading of profiles.

1. Moved by Amy Nydam and seconded by Jacqueline VandenBorn.  
Motion carried.

#### **4. Acknowledgement of Retirees and Long-Term Employees**

- 5 years - Inge Tinga, Heather Moss
- 10 years - Breanne Benoit, Nick Boschman, Ruby Dulyok, Ellen Haimila, Richard Lobb, Liz Rachul, Holly Sperling, Angeal VanKooten, Marie Vriend, Holly Sperling
- 15 years - Carrie Chasse, Dominique Dickau, Rebekah Esser, Conrad Hoover, Geraldine Kingma, Michelle L'Heureux, Colleen VanVeen, Dorothy Visser
- 20 years - Lena Ayers, Lucia Blair, Louise Reich, Clint Schenk, Sharon Yskes
- 30 years - Linda Hale, Edith Houstra, Joan Konynenbelt
- 35 years - Lori Walters, Laurie Zylstra
- Retirees - Laurie Zylstra, Geraldine Kingma, Suzanne Knol

#### **Recess to count votes.**

#### **5. Results of Motion to Elect Nominees**

Elected nominees.

- 1 year term - Rebecca Vandeborn
- 1 year term - Jonathan Nicolai-Dekoning
- 3 year terms - Peter Buisman, Darlene Eerkes, Kevin Hofstede

#### **6. Results of Motion to Amend Bylaws**

Motion not carried.

#### **7. Results of Motion to Approve the Budget**

Motion carried.

#### **8. Conclusion of the Business Portion of the Meeting**

- a. Motion to conclude the business portion
  - Moved by Larissa Vogan and seconded by Peter Eerkes
- b. Discussion/questions
- c. Vote by all members

- Motion carried.

#### **9. Destroy Ballots**

- a. Motion to destroy the ballots. Moved by Jacqueline VandenBorn and seconded by Larissa Vogan
- b. Discussion/questions
  - All ballots should be maintained. Will the Board analyze the ballots?
  - Point of clarification, does it include absentee ballots?
- c. Vote by all members
  - Motion not carried
- d. Discussion/questions
  - Point of clarification - questions regarding absentee ballots
- e. Vote by all members
  - Motion that all ballots including absentee ballots not be destroyed. Moved by Kent Eerkes and seconded by Andy Oshesky
  - Motion carried.

#### **10. Adjournment of the Meeting**

- a. Motion to adjourn the meeting  
Moved by Amy Nydam and seconded by Evan Manning
- b. Vote by all members  
Motion carried.

## Member-Proposed Bylaw Revision

**Appendix A** contains the full text of a bylaw revision proposal that was submitted by members of the Society. This document is presented exactly as it was received by the Board of Trustees, without alterations. We are including it here in its entirety for your reference as you prepare for the upcoming Special Resolution Meeting.

For privacy reasons, the pages containing member names and signatures have been removed.

**Please also note the following clarification:** The explanation within the proposal states that there are “*over 10,000 inactive members.*” This figure is incorrect. As of May 25, 2025, the Society’s membership records reflect 3,115 inactive members, not 10,000+.

## Board-Proposed Bylaw Revision

**Appendix B** contains the full text of a bylaw revision proposal submitted by the Board of Trustees. This proposal was developed after extensive consultation with the community and careful review of survey feedback. It is included here in its entirety for your reference as you prepare for the upcoming Meeting.

The Board’s proposed revisions are designed to strengthen alignment between voting membership and the mission and vision of the Society, ensuring that those most engaged with Edmonton Christian Schools are shaping its future.

## Board Input on Bylaw Revision Proposals

**To support thoughtful and informed decision-making, the Board of Trustees has prepared a report offering reflections and clarifications on the proposed bylaw changes.**

**The full report can be found in Appendix C** and is intended to help members discern and vote wisely at the upcoming meeting. We encourage you to review this appendix carefully as you prepare to participate in the decision-making process.

**In summary:**

- **Member-Initiated Proposal (Appendix A):**

- The proposed redefinition of "member" impacts multiple bylaws, not just the membership bylaw. Please read through the bylaws in their entirety to make sure that you agree/disagree with all of the implications of these changes before voting.
- **Board-Initiated Proposal (Appendix B):**
  - Aims to ensure voting responsibility stays with those actively engaged in the school community (current parents, grandparents, and local alumni).
  - If passed, some currently active members who no longer have a direct connection to the school would not retain their membership.
  - Staff would not qualify for membership based solely on employment to avoid conflicts of interest. But any who have relational connections (like parenthood) would still qualify.
- ***Stopgap Proposal:*** *While a stop-gap proposal was shared earlier, concerns were raised about how it was presented. For that reason, we've decided to withdraw it at this time.*

## Board Nominations

We are grateful to each of the individuals who have allowed their names to stand for election to the ESCE Board of Directors. Serving on the Board is a significant commitment, and we thank all nominees for their willingness to contribute their time, gifts, and perspective to the ongoing mission of Edmonton Christian Schools.

Please take time to read through the profiles on the following pages. These candidates have been nominated by the Board and will be presented for election at the AGM.



# Board Nominee Profile: DARCY VISSCHER

## ESCE Membership

Member for 12 years

## Connection to Edmonton Christian Schools

Parent of 3 children in the schools

## Professional Expertise

- Christian higher education and wildlife research
- Chair of the Biology department and research committee at The King's University
- Past member of the President's Council at The King's University
- Runs meetings, administers budgets, writes policy, and participates in university governance
- Maintains a funded research program and has published over 30 scientific papers, many co-authored with undergraduate students

## Volunteer & Leadership Experience

### *Within ECS/ESCE:*

- Guest speaker on wildlife topics and field trip volunteer

### *Other Leadership Roles:*

- Board member of a daycare
- Chair of church council
- University leadership roles including department chair and policy contributor

## Ministry & Community Involvement

- Baptized in the Christian Reformed Church.
- Currently attends an unaffiliated community church.

## Areas of Interest

- Christian education at all levels · ECS Throughlines and integrated faith
- Co-determinative governance
- Faith and civic responsibility

## Why I Want to Serve on the ESCE Board

*"I have spent my life steeped in the traditions that the ECS was founded in—through Christian schooling, university studies, and now my vocational calling as a professor. These experiences were instrumental in shaping my worldview and understanding of my role in society.*

*I believe Christian education plays a special role in equipping students to participate in Christ's redemptive work. At The King's University, I've had the privilege of contributing to this mission at a different level, but with the same passion for faith-based education.*

*I deeply value the ECS community. Though I grew up on Vancouver Island, I've been welcomed into this community through my wife's family—long-time ECS students and teachers—and now as a parent myself. I'm grateful for the formative impact ECS has had on my children and love the continuity of vision it represents. To be considered for a role on the Board is an opportunity to be part of that continued legacy of grace that ECS embodies."*

# Board Nominee Profile: GORDON YOUNG

## ESCE Membership

Member for 4 years

## Connection to Edmonton Christian Schools

Parent of one student at Edmonton Christian West School (ECWS)

## Professional Expertise

Started, successfully ran and sold 3 businesses and is currently running his own Data analytics and AI consulting firm. Some of his clients include: Apple, Amazon, Google, NASA, U.S. Navy, Uber, Lockheed Martin, The World Bank, RCMP, Exxon, Amazon, City of Edmonton, Royal Bank, ATB and others

Passionate about leveraging data and technology to drive better decisions, strengthening organizational culture and enhancing learning at all levels.

## Volunteer & Leadership Experience

### *Within ECS/ESCE:*

- Society office volunteer (administrative support)

### *Faith-Based Leadership Roles:*

- Board Member – Adeara formerly Edmonton Dream Center
- Elder (2 terms) – South Edmonton Alliance Church
- Treasurer - South Edmonton Alliance Church
- Prayer Team Lead, Small Group Leader, and English Ministry Planning Committee member

### *Professional Leadership Roles:*

- Board member for three private companies
- Co-Chair – Program Advisory Committee, NAIT
- University of Alberta School of Business Mentor of the Year
- Harvard Business School: Stepping Up to Management Certification
- Experience managing teams of 150+ staff

## Ministry & Community Involvement

- Organizer of cross-church prayer and worship nights
- Leadership development conferences (multi-denominational)
- Evangelistic events featuring speakers, music, and film
- Led community grocery ministry program during Covid
- Co-Led Ukrainian Refugee Settlement
- Co-Led Syrian Refugee Settlement

## Areas of Interest

Jesus · Missions · Leadership · Mentorship · Education

## Why I Want to Serve on the ESCE Board

*"As a parent, I care deeply about the environment where my daughter learns and grows. I want to help ensure that it remains Christ-centred, nurturing, and academically excellent."*

# Board Nominee Profile: KEVIN HOFSTEDE

## ESCE Membership

Member for 15 years

## Connection to Edmonton Christian Schools

Father of a child at Northeast and at the High School as well as two graduates from our schools. I am an Alumni and spent 13 years in our Christian schools at East Edmonton Christian and the Edmonton Christian High School

## Professional Expertise

Administration and Policy

I have been a Pharmacist for 23 years, including 14 years of management experience in a healthcare setting. I have a postgraduate certificate in Public Administration and currently work as a Director of Pharmacy for AHS helping manage the pharmacy departments for 37 North Zone Healthcare facilities with nearly 300 pharmacy staff members.

## Volunteer & Leadership Experience

### *Within ECS/ESCE:*

- Former coach and parent volunteer
- Member of the membership bylaw update committee

## Ministry & Community Involvement

- Active member of Trinity Christian Reformed Church of Edmonton since 2000. Has served on church council, worship music leader, children's programs, and faith formation.
- Previously on the board of NE Basketball Association, including two terms as president.

## Areas of Interest

Administration · Policy · Christian education · Governance

## Why I Want to Serve on the ESCE Board

*"I want to contribute toward making a positive impact on our board and our community, and to help create a healthy Christian School Society that fosters the love of Christ in our children and extends that love into our broader community and city. Specifically, I hope to assist in updating and clarifying our governing bylaws, policies, and procedures to ensure optimal board effectiveness in supporting Christian education."*

# Board Nominee Profile: REBECCA VANDENBORN

## ESCE Membership

Member since 2008

## Connection to Edmonton Christian Schools

My children have attended ECS from 2009 to present. One child is currently at ECHS, and two have graduated from ECHS.

## Professional Expertise

- Strong skills in organization and leadership
- Flexible and creative problem solver
- Values relationship building, cooperation, and communication
- Pharmacist at an Edmonton hospital, with a current clinical practice in cardiology – work in collaboration with the healthcare team to promote health education and provide safe and effective medication management

## Volunteer & Leadership Experience

### *Within ECS/ESCE:*

- Volunteer at ECNS both in classrooms and on field trips
- ECNS School Council member (2009–2024), served as Chair and Secretary

### *Church Leadership:*

- Chair of Council, Chair of Elders, Elder
- Chair of Worship Committee, Worship Team Coordinator
- Sunday School Teacher, GEMS Leader, Bible Study Leader, member of the Worship Team

### *Community Involvement:*

- Secretary, Registrar, and Website and Communications Coordinator for North East Basketball Association - Provide strong organizational support, as well as work in policy development, fundraising, communication, and volunteer coordination.

## Ministry & Community Involvement

- Active member of First Christian Reformed Church, with a long history of serving in leadership, teaching, worship, and community building.
- Currently serving on the Worship and Welcome Teams.

## Areas of Interest

Leadership · Organizational Effectiveness · Creation Enjoying · Earth Keeping · Community Building

### Why I Want to Serve on the ESCE Board

*"Christian Education is of utmost importance to me, and I feel called to serve as a member of the board of the ESCE. I have seen the work of Edmonton Christian Schools as my children continue to play their part in God's story, and I have the skills and talents required to continue to support my children, and the children of my community, as a leader on the Board of ESCE.*

*I believe that God is working through the vision and mission of ECS to grow our children into loving and responsible Christ-followers. As a leader at ECS, I commit to modelling Christ-like living, showing God's love, peace and grace to all volunteers, staff, and students of ECS, as well as to the world surrounding our community.*

*My deep hope is that Edmonton Christian Schools produce learners who desire the Kingdom of God, and see every part of their education, as well as their lives through God's eyes. And I hope that my service on the Board of the ESCE can provide an environment where God is at work in our children's lives, transforming and renewing them."*

# Board Nominee Profile: ADEMOLA AJIDAGBA

## ESCE Membership

Member for 8 months

## Connection to Edmonton Christian Schools

Parent of three children attending Edmonton Christian Northeast School

## Professional Expertise.

- Chartered Professional Accountant
- Auditor of the University of MacEwan
- Works directly with the board of University of MacEwan.
- Corporate governance
- Risk management
- Financial reporting and accountability
- Stakeholder engagement experience

## Volunteer & Leadership Experience

### *Within ECS/ESCE:*

- No prior involvement yet

### *Other Leadership Roles:*

- Vice-President of Finance – community sports club
- Past Treasurer and Board Member – Gateway Alliance Church
- Professional work includes reporting to the Board of an Edmonton-area university

## Ministry & Community Involvement

- Past Treasurer and former Board member of Gateway Alliance Church. Currently an active member of the same church.

## Areas of Interest

Effective stakeholder engagement · Financial stewardship and accountability · Strategic leadership · Risk management

## Why I Want to Serve on the ESCE Board

*"I want to contribute my expertise and experience to the continuous development and support of Christian education, as well as the vision and mission of the Society."*



# Board Nominee Profile: CHELSEA VOOGD

## **ESCE Membership**

Member since 2014

## **Connection to Edmonton Christian Schools**

Alumna of Edmonton Christian School. Parent of three current students at Edmonton Christian Northeast School.

## **Professional Expertise**

- Communication and leadership skills
- Budgeting and organizational expertise
- Experience leading groups and organizing events
- Business ownership has provided experience working with diverse people
- Strong team collaboration skills
- Background in finance with a diploma in business finance from NAIT

## **Volunteer & Leadership Experience**

### ***Within ECS/ESCE:***

- One year on the ESCE Board of Trustees as the Treasurer (current)
- Volunteered at events, field trips, and fundraisers since 2014
- Longtime supporter of the annual auction, both personally and through business contributions

### ***Other Leadership Roles:***

- Owner/operator of a tree nursery and garden center in Edmonton for over 40 years (family business)
- Managed large staff and led numerous church-level committees
- Organized fundraisers and events for all ages
- Served on Family Friendly Soccer Committee (5 years)
- Coached volleyball and soccer teams

## **Ministry & Community Involvement**

- Served on nursery and Sunday school committees at West End CRC, and continued involvement after transferring to Bethel CRC in 2018.
- Sunday school teacher, event planner, VBS leader, women's Bible study leader, and GEMS leader.

- Missions Committee secretary for two years, organizing trips and fundraisers. Currently attends Northpointe Community Church.

### **Areas of Interest**

Hiking · Skiing · Outdoor activities · Gardening · Family time · Youth sports · Community involvement

### **Why I Want to Serve on the ESCE Board**

*"Serving on the board this past year has certainly come with its challenges but I am seeking a second term on the board because I feel called to continue serving. I believe God often uses difficult seasons to shape us, deepen our reliance on Him and prepare us for greater service. Through prayer and reflection I've sensed that my work here is not finished. I care deeply about this community and the mission we are pursuing together. My heart is to serve faithfully, not for recognition but to honor Him and build something that reflects His love and purpose."*

## Treasurer Report

The ESCE Board of Trustees presents the following financial overview, which includes the proposed budget along with key details, explanations, and clarifications. If you have questions, please email them to [board@edmchristian.org](mailto:board@edmchristian.org). We will do our best to address common questions during the budget presentation at the AGM.

**This year's budget process required some very difficult decisions. We are facing two significant financial challenges:**

- the need to meet our debt obligations
- ongoing cash flow pressures

### Debt Servicing: Where are our payments going?

They cover loan repayments for past building and infrastructure repairs, as well as principal and interest on our mortgages. These costs reflect the necessary investment in maintaining our schools so that our children continue to learn in safe, functional, and welcoming spaces. Additional details are available in the financial statements and will be addressed during the AGM.

### What about our cash flow challenges?

The most pressing concern is non-payment of Christian program fees and ESCE transportation fees (High School shuttle and rural route). **A recent examination of ESCE's finances by a third-party auditor uncovered a significant number of unpaid fees, both from the current year and from the past.** We know some fees will come in by the end of June; however, at the time of writing, unpaid fees from the current school year amounts to \$578,000, with an additional \$250,000 in unpaid fees from previous years.

Some have assumed our cash flow issues are due to a small number of families withholding program fees in protest of legal expenses. In reality, the financial strain we're facing is part of a broader and ongoing pattern of non-payment. **Families have not followed through on the financial commitment they made when registering at ECS.** While we've tried to respond with grace and understanding over the years, this has contributed to a growing deficit. The Board is now exploring ways to recover unpaid fees and ensure greater accountability.

We recognize that legal expenses from the Summer 2024 judicial review were higher than expected, and we understand the concerns. But those costs were a small part of the overall picture. Unpaid program fees, our mortgage, and long-standing debt are the causes of our financial strain. These are challenges we would be facing regardless of the legal expenses. Compounding the challenge is the fact that ESCE does not have a reserve or “rainy day fund” for emergencies. This leaves us vulnerable to unplanned expenses, such as roof repairs or HVAC replacements, some of which are approaching end of life.

## **Executive Summary**

### **Budget Goal**

- A balanced budget is proposed for the 2025–2026 fiscal year.

### **Revenue Highlights**

- Christian program fees increased by 3%.
- Capital Assessment remains at \$360 per family, allocated entirely toward mortgage repayment.
- Revenue projections are based on an 85% collection rate, which reflects actual historical payment trends.
- Donations in 2024–25 were lower than budgeted and below historical averages. Budget estimates reflect current-year trends.
- The Preschool program revenue has been budgeted to ensure that it covers the corresponding costs related to providing the program. It operated on a break even basis in the 2024-25 year to date.
- The Transportation program revenue has also been budgeted to project covering corresponding costs related to providing the services. The transportation program has operated at a loss in the 2024-25 year to date. The collection rate experienced for transportation fees in the current has been at approximately 50% of what was budgeted. The program will be managed to operate on a break even basis in the 2025-26 fiscal year.
- The cafeteria programs are budgeted to break even which they have done historically.

### **Expenditure Highlights**

- Spending reductions were necessary to achieve a balanced budget. 2.0 School Support, 3.0 Transportation and 4.0 Development, Admissions and Marketing are

not broken down into itemized categories as we are working with our partners to determine where support is most needed.

- Maintenance budget set at \$325,000, covering:
  - Hippo CMMS software for planning and tracking
  - Truck maintenance and grounds upkeep
  - Heating, plumbing, and electrical repairs
  - Replacement of one rooftop HVAC unit
  - Investigation of West roof leaks (replacement planned for 2026–27)
- Repayment begins on \$500,000 in new debt incurred in 2024–25 for the High School roof repair.

## Key Figures

**Estimated receipts:** \$2.7 million

- Program fee revenue: \$1.74 million (based on 85% of \$2 million projected)
- Lease income: \$806,000 (in line with current year)

**Operating costs:** \$2.4 million

**Debt servicing:** At least \$875,000 in mortgage and loan payments

- \$492,000 on consolidated mortgage (\$7.6M total): ~\$250K principal, ~\$242K interest
- \$359,000 on West building mortgage (\$3.9M total): ~\$225K principal, ~\$134K interest
- ~\$2,000/month in interest on \$500K line of credit, with principal repayment expected to begin this year

## Additional Note

- Donations to the Creator’s Classroom were under \$2,000 this fiscal year.

## 2025 - 2026 Budget

The Edmonton Society for Christian Education 2025-2026 Budget Statement of Operations Restated to reflect Cash basis				
	2025-2026 Budget (3% fee increase)	2024-25 YTD 3rd Quarter Ended	2024-25 Budget	2023-24 Actual - per audited financial statements
<b>1. REVENUE</b>				
1.1 Christian Program Fees	1,740,514	1,217,781	1,979,135	1,904,663
1.1b Subsidy Expense	(120,000)	(72,610)	(120,000)	
1.2 Preschool Fees	73,574	65,453	87,685	
1.3 Transportation Fees	66,237	52,630	112,405	103,139
1.4 Facilities Lease	805,716	604,287	805,716	805,716
1.5 Memberships & Donations	100,000	140,030	200,000	188,039
1.6 Church Collections	3,000	3,039	15,000	
1.7.1 Special Fundraising - Auction	0	31	40,000	
1.7.2 Special Fundraising - Other	0		15,000	
1.8 Miscellaneous Income	1,500	1,721	4,000	4,687
1.9 Senior High Cafeteria Revenue	25,000	35,748	25,000	42,696
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>2,695,541</b>	<b>2,048,111</b>	<b>3,163,941</b>	<b>3,048,940</b>
<b>2. SCHOOL SUPPORT</b>	<b>363,818</b>	<b>445,764</b>	<b>644,755</b>	<b>584,638</b>
<b>3. TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>85,668</b>	<b>155,000</b>	<b>141,102</b>
<b>4. DEVELOPMENT, ADMISSIONS, MARKETING</b>	<b>168,735</b>	<b>44,585</b>	<b>208,589</b>	<b>226,457</b>
<b>5. FACILITIES</b>	<b>1,315,014</b>	<b>900,201</b>	<b>1,215,526</b>	<b>1,409,329</b>
5.1 Maintenance	325,000	175,479	227,000	437,015
5.1.1 Salaries and Benefits	122,587	91,012	117,053	143,635
5.2 Utilities	375,000	276,684	375,000	366,180
5.3 Insurance	92,427	65,780	88,268	69,010
5.4 Mortgage Interest	400,000	291,246	408,205	393,489
<b>6. ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>497,532</b>	<b>474,976</b>	<b>467,268</b>	<b>396,458</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>2,410,100</b>	<b>1,951,195</b>	<b>2,691,138</b>	<b>2,757,984</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES - OPERATIONS</b>	<b>285,441</b>	<b>96,916</b>	<b>472,803</b>	<b>290,956</b>
Capital Levy	264,384	190,370	304,200	220,505
Mortgage payments - Principal portion	(475,000)	(314,551)	(476,681)	(460,190)
Extraordinary item: High School Roof Replacement	-	(452,636)	(737,616)	-
Reserve Fund	(20,000)	0	0	0
<b>Total surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>54,825</b>	<b>(479,901)</b>	<b>(437,294)</b>	<b>51,271</b>

<b>The Edmonton Society for Christian Education</b> <b>2025-2026 Budget</b> <b>Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b>				
	<b>2025-2026 Budget Estimate</b>	<b>2024-25 YTD 3rd Quarter Ended</b>	<b>2024-25 Budget</b>	<b>2023-24 Actual - per audited financial statements</b>
<b>1. CURRENT ASSETS</b>	491,478	1,497,084	1,343,438	763,852
2. Cash and Equivalents - Restricted	365,263	365,263		365,263
3. Northeast Playground Redesign	22,002	22,002		22,002
<b>4. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>	24,360,887	24,660,887	23,935,040	24,891,977
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>25,239,630</b>	<b>26,545,236</b>	<b>25,278,478</b>	<b>26,043,094</b>
<b>5. CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	250,000	690,097	1,023,324	356,424
6. Mortgages Payable	11,337,935	11,910,416	11,378,871	11,815,869
7. Member loans payable	63,000	61,063	96,011	71,646
8. Loan Payable	650,000	620,000	650,000	650,000
9. Deferred Capital Campaign Contributions	138,041	138,041	230,000	137,091
10. Deferred Capital Contributions- Property	7,166,123	7,231,694	7,168,151	7,431,412
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>19,605,099</b>	<b>20,651,311</b>	<b>20,546,357</b>	<b>20,462,442</b>
<b>11. INVESTMENT IN PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>	6,322,518	6,322,518	5,157,702	5,644,697
<b>12. INTERNALLY RESTRICTED</b>	138,041	138,041	136,604	250,174
<b>13. ACCUMULATED OPERATING DEFICIENCY</b>	(826,028)	(566,634)	(562,185)	(314,219)
	<b>25,239,630</b>	<b>26,545,236</b>	<b>25,278,478</b>	<b>26,043,094</b>

## Introducing Loreen Austin

### CPA, CA·IFA, MFAcc, CFF

After identifying several serious concerns in our financial records, the Edmonton Society for Christian Education brought in Loreen Austin as a contractor to help assess the situation and guide us forward. Loreen is a forensic accountant with a strong track record of helping organizations navigate complex financial and regulatory challenges. Her clarity, professionalism, and expertise have been essential in preparing this year's budget, and she continues to support us as we work through financial issues and move toward greater stability.

Loreen operates her firm, *Foundation Forensics, Chartered Professional Accountant*, and brings decades of experience to her work. She has served as Director of Conduct and Discipline for CPA Alberta, where she managed investigations, oversaw complaint processes for over 30,000 CPAs, and led regulatory policy development. Before that, she worked at the Law Society of Alberta as both a forensic investigator and the Manager of Trust Safety.

She holds multiple credentials in forensic accounting, including a Master of Forensic Accounting (MFAcc), Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF), and Investigative and Forensic Accounting (IFA) specialization. Loreen has been a Chartered Accountant since 1991 and is known for her ability to get to the root of difficult issues with clarity and integrity.

We are grateful for the insightful leadership she's brought to this season of financial accountability and renewal.



## 2025-2026 Service Recognition

We extend our deepest thanks to every individual whose dedication and service have strengthened and enriched the Edmonton Christian Schools community. We are truly blessed by the unique gifts and talents God has given each employee, and we are grateful for the ways these gifts have been shared to support and grow our community. Your hard work, passion, and devotion have left a lasting legacy, shaping ECS into the vibrant and caring environment it is today. As we gather to celebrate and recognize your contributions, we do so with heartfelt gratitude for the significant impact you've made on the lives of students, families, and colleagues alike.

### 5 Years

Hofstede, Linda

### 10 Years

Gebremedhin, Wolde

Klok, Pauline

Middel, Anthony

Nelson, Michelle

Vriend, Marianne

### 15 Years

Fenske, Myles

Klomps, Joyce

Lauber, Megan

Reynolds, Rachel

van Gelder, Lisa

### 20 Years

Huculak, Cyndi

Ketchum-Walker, Alisa

Molenkamp, Lynn

### 30 Years

Herrera, Lijia

### 35 Years

Piers, Brian

### Retirees

Herrera, Lijia

## Board Chair Report

In 1949, a group of Dutch immigrants of the Christian Reformed faith opened Edmonton Christian Schools (ECS) with a vision for Christ-centered education. Fifty years later, the Edmonton Society for Christian Education (ESCE) entered a partnership with Edmonton Public Schools (EPS), where ESCE retains full responsibility for the Christian programming in our schools. This partnership remains a responsibility we do not take lightly.

Through prayerful collaboration and thoughtful study, we have gained a renewed appreciation for the wisdom and intentionality that shaped the formation of the Society. The Constitution and Bylaws—including the foundational Basis of the Society—articulate not only the purpose of the Society, but also the guiding principles that anchor our mission. While there are a diversity of perspectives, the collective direction must remain faithful to the Society's Basis. The basis of the Society is the infallible Word of God, interpreted in accordance with the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic or Netherlands Confession of Faith, the Canons of Dort, or the Westminster Confession. These enduring, forward-looking Confessions, established by the founding members, are a blessing. They provide a foundation as we navigate cultural change, grounding the Society in the unchanging truth of God's Word.

We remain committed to our calling—ensuring that Edmonton Christian Schools continues to offer a Christian education that upholds God's truth.

We imagine a future - a legacy, where parents, staff, the Board, and the community remain committed to this important work, as we remain faithful to the vision and foundation set by our founders.

It is both a privilege and a joy to serve you and the ECS community. The Board remains grateful for your support, advice, and partnership as we seek to honor Christ in all we do.

Logan Day

# Executive Director Report

## *Psalm 1*

*Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers but whose delight is in the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither - whatever they do prospers.*

It has been a difficult year. We are thankful that in the midst of struggle and hardship we are able to raise our eyes up to delight in the Lord, to meditate on His truth. As we do, He will renew us like trees planted by streams of water and the struggles get a little lighter.

This fiscal year began with months of court proceedings which came to completion just before the start of the school year. The board had a large number of new trustees and a completely new Executive team. This impacted the Society staff, principals and members as the new team got their feet under them and learned the ropes.

There have been a lot of changes in the Society staff team: there have been multiple staff on leave for a variety of reasons; valued members of our team have moved on; new faces in the office have come, been a blessing and have gone within the year. There remain two unfilled positions in the office.

While there have been difficult times this year there have also been great joys in the classroom. We all love hearing our little ones come home sharing with us all they have learned about Advent, or seeing them light up when they tour us around school to show us their amazing artwork, or see our big kids nervously prepare for presentations for the first time. We all desire our children to be like trees planted by streams of water, who yield their fruit in season, and whose leaves do not wither.

## Staff Updates

### **Executive Director**

With the current vacancy in the Executive Directors role, two individuals were hired to assist with the ED responsibilities. Darlene Eerkes assumed duties related to supporting our staff and Christian Programming. Francis Poole has assisted in a number of operational responsibilities. Mr. Kyle Sandford was hired as the new Executive Director for Edmonton Christian Schools. He will begin his new role commencing July 2025.

### **Administrative Assistant**

Miss Ife Odelana was hired as a temporary Administrative Assistant beginning in February and has stepped in as temporary Finance manager while Maryann is on leave.

### **Mental Health Therapist**

Joshua Goetz has been hired as the Mental Health Therapist. He has split his time across all three schools.

### **NE Pastoral Care Leader**

We welcomed Cely back from maternity leave this Spring.

### **Director of Development and Admissions**

This position is currently vacant with a desire to fill it in the fall.

## **Program Highlights**

### **Preschool**

Our preschools continue to provide a loving and enriching environment for our youngest students. The 25/26 enrollment for one class in the West school is particularly low so we are scheduled to only run one class at the West school and we will look at what can be done to return to full enrollment once the new ED is in place.

### **Christian Education Program**

The Christian Education program continues to develop. This year has been a big year of conferences for our staff. Getting away together as a team to focus on how we deliver education within a Christian worldview is so valuable. Having well equipped leaders in the school enables us to provide Christian Education with excellence. In the fall was the annual Christian Teachers Conference that was attended by all of our teachers and school administration. Later in the year we were able to send the school administration along with the Director of Learning and ED to conferences in Halifax and Florida.

## **Activities**

### **Listening Sessions**

This fall the Society hosted 6 separate listening sessions to hear from members across our community. The sessions were well attended and we were able to gather important information from the full spectrum of our members. Thank you to all who were willing to

come to share their concerns, hopes and expectations with each other and listen to others in the community.

### **Annual Auction**

The decision was made to cancel the Auction this school year in light of the struggles within our community. Instead, parents from both campuses volunteered to lead community events with the focus on bringing families together to foster the rebuilding of relationships. The NE School Council created the **ECS Family Fun Night**. It was a great success with hundreds showing up with lawn chairs and sports equipment to enjoy God's creation, play sports and outdoor activities together. It was an enjoyable time for all! At the West school two moms volunteered to lead a **Family Movie Night**. It also was a great success with tickets selling out the first day of promotions! Children were counting down to the big day when they could come and enjoy the Dogman Movie with friends! A big thank you goes out to both teams of leaders and their volunteers! Your hard work has been greatly appreciated! Thank you!

### **Creators Classroom**

The Creators Classroom remains an important project for the Society. There has been little progress this year in light of the turmoil within our community. We look forward to refocusing on this project once the Executive Director begins.

## **Facilities**

### **High School Roof Replacement**

The High School Roof was replaced over the summer of 2024. It progressed smoothly.

### **West School Roof Repair**

The West School Roof has been identified as needing repair. While the majority of the roof over the school is new the roof over the gym is not. We are currently researching the size and scope of the problem.

### **NE Drainage**

The drainage issues at the NE school continue to be an issue. Our facilities director continues to work to prevent water from entering the school during the spring melt and has been working to deal with other issues that arise as a consequence of the drainage problem. Her work has prevented a lot of damage to our facility. We are incredibly grateful for her hardwork and dedication. The issue will be looked at once the ED reports this summer.

## **Admissions**

### **Information Sessions for new families**

We hosted 6 information sessions across our three schools this year. Prospective families had the opportunity to hear about the vision and mission of our Christian Education Program, tour the schools, meet the principals and have their questions answered. We had both in person sessions and virtual sessions.

### **First Year Families**

All of our first-year families received a personal call to welcome them to ECS, provide them with much-needed information and collect their feedback.

## Principals' Report

In the interest of time, the Principals' Annual Schools Report will not be presented. We encourage all members to read through the full written report included in this package.

This report reflects the remarkable dedication of our principals and the staff teams at all three schools. We are deeply grateful for their leadership, their commitment to Christian education, and the care they show for our students and families each day.

Edmonton Public Schools and Edmonton Christian Schools VISION & MISSION Statements	
EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	EDMONTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
<p><b>VISION:</b> Enhancing pathways for student success</p> <p><b>MISSION:</b> Our commitment to high-quality public education serves the community and empowers each student to live a life of dignity, fulfilment, empathy and possibility</p> <p><b>CORNERSTONE VALUES:</b> Accountability, Collaboration, Equity and Integrity</p>	<p><b>VISION:</b> Accepting Christ's invitation to live for renewal</p> <p><b>MISSION:</b> Responding to God's grace, Edmonton Christian School challenges students, through Christ-centred education, to actively play their role in God's story.</p> <p><b>Schools' Theme: Play your Role in God's Story</b></p>

Supporting Scripture
<p><b>John 3:16-17</b> -16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.</p> <p><b>Matthew 22:37-40</b> 37 He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (New Revised Standard Version)</p>

### Teaching for Transformation - The framework used by ECS for Christian Programming

We are committed to continuing the work that we have been doing in relation to the three core practices:

**Storyline:** a powerful and compelling vision of the Kingdom that creates a longing and a desire within every student to play their part in God's unfolding story of *creation - fall - redemption - restoration*.

**Throughlines:** are an articulate and inspiring student profile that invites every student to imagine how to play their part in God's story.

Throughlines		
At Edmonton Christian Schools we challenge our students to be:		
Community Builders		
God Worshippers	Justice Seekers	Servant Workers
Beauty Creators	Creation Enjoyers	Order Discoverers
Earth Keepers	Idolatry Discerners	Image Reflectors

**Formational Learning Experiences:** provide authentic (real work, real problem, real people) opportunities for students to practice living the Kingdom story. This practice becomes a habit, shaping who we are.

### **Deep Hope**

As Administrators, Our DEEP HOPE for our staff is that they have time, space and support to reflect on and collaborate with colleagues with the primary goal of inviting, nurturing and empowering students to play their part within God's unfolding story of redemption. This Deep Hope has become even more meaningful as we consider the important work we are doing during uncertain times. What we do have as Christians, is hope. We have the opportunity to be hopeful, to learn from our experiences, to bring the best part of the past forward and be more present in the future; to play our role in God's story in ways that we have not considered before; in ways that show love to each other and serve the world. This is our hope for our community.

*We are excited to celebrate many successful school events this year, through which we uphold the vision and mission of our schools:*

**Learning Together Series 2024-2025** - for Parents/Guardians, Board members, Community members, and School staff from ECS 3 Campuses



- **TfT 101** - Wednesday, October 30 7:00 @ West Campus  
Gain insight into the visible signs of deep learning, discover practical tools to better understand TfT in action, and strengthen the partnership between home and school as we work together to cultivate faith-filled, meaningful learning experiences.
- **Digital Citizenship with Cst. Rob Farbin** - January 20 6:30-7:30 @ Northeast Campus  
Join us for an engaging session with Constable Rob Farbin from the Edmonton Police Service. With a passion for creating safe, supportive learning environments, Const. Farbin will share his extensive knowledge to equip parents with tools and insights to help their children navigate social media responsibly and develop healthy, safe online habits at home.
- **TfT: Culture of Belonging** - February 19 7:00-8:00 @ ECS High School - CANCELLED  
How can parents, teachers, and students each play a role in building a thriving learning community? What evidence of learning can we see, and what contributions can we make? In this session, we'll explore how Teaching for Transformation (TfT) takes shape in the classroom and the ways parents can engage with and support their child's learning journey.
- **Wîcihitowin Night** - April 24 6:00-8:00 @ Northeast Campus  
Wîcihitowin (pronounced: wee-chih-hito-win) is a nehiyawewin/Cree term meaning "helping and supporting each other." Edmonton Christian Schools invites you to join us in a night of learning and dialogue around Truth and Reconciliation. *It is our Deep Hope that together, we remain committed to engaging in peaceful dialogue to deepen understanding, challenge preconceived ideas, identify biases, and move toward reconciliation to restore right relationships with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. We will provide a safe and welcoming space for expanding our learning as a school community to collectively and actively play our role in truth and reconciliation.*
- **Family Worship Night** - May 5 6:00-7:00 @ Northeast Campus  
Join us for a special evening of praise and worship as we come together for Family Worship Night. This evening is an opportunity to build our sense of belonging and community as we lift our voices to praise our Lord and Saviour.

### **Farewells and Graduations**

As we plan for our end of year celebrations and Graduation activities we are currently planning to celebrate important events. Our school communities are looking forward to celebrating the transitions and accomplishments of our students with Kindergarten grads, grade 9 farewells and our high school commencement ceremony and graduation banquet.

- ECNS Grade 9 Farewell Celebration - Tuesday, June 24, 2025

- ECWS Grade 9 Farewell Celebration - Monday, June 23, 2025
- ECHS Grade 12 Graduation - Wednesday, June 25, 2025

### **Registration & Enrollment**

Pre-enrolment ran from February 1 - March 22. As of Wednesday, May 15 here are the current numbers for each school:

- **West School** - 582 (2024-25 current enrolment: 571) students, two classes at each grade level from K-9. There was a random selection process conducted for grade 1, 2, 8. West school is full and closed for new registration in grade 1-9 with only a few spaces available in Kindergarten.
- **Northeast School** - 722 students (2024-25 current enrolment: 646) and we are currently full and closed for new registration at grades 4, 7, and 9. Northeast went to Random Selection for grade 7.
- **High School** - 298 students (2024-25 current enrolment: 278), with 3 classes at each grade level.

### **Professional Development Update**

Teaching staff at all 3 campuses are continuing their collective work on Teaching for Transformation (TfT) core practices:

**Core Practice #1** - Storyline

**Core Practice #2** - Biblical Throughlines

**Core Practice #3** - Real Work, Real Problems, Real Audience through Formational Learning Experiences (FLEx)

On Thursday, April 17, 2025 teachers from all three schools gathered together at ECNE to celebrate the work we have done around Teaching for Transformation this year. This work is an important part of how our teachers challenge our students to actively play their role in God's Story. The focus for our time was on Storyboards as means to celebrate the story of learning in the classroom. We learned how their FLEx ideas materialised and what they have learned to further grow the formational experiences for our students next year. Teachers are all in different places along this journey of creating formational learning experiences but we continue to grow in our practice. This celebration was about our Deep Hope to transform our students through meaningful engagement in curriculum and real experiences. This PD Day was also about growing from whatever point teachers are at and looking forward to building something that will be meaningful to their classroom context in the future. It is exciting to see the dedication our teacher has to creating these meaningful lessons to grow the mission and vision of our school.

On March 31, Northeast teachers participated in a valuable Professional Learning Day that was teacher-directed and aligned with individual Professional Growth Plans (PGPs), the provincial curriculum, and at the Teaching for Transformation framework. The purpose of the day was for teachers to collaborate and design an engaging evening for parents to experience the incredible work students are doing in their Christian programming. Teachers developed meaningful and relevant driving questions that would guide student learning and showcase their growth. This planning directly supported our Teaching for Transformation (TfT) Celebration of Learning family night, held on April 3. Our Director of Learning, Anthony Middel was available throughout the day to support individual teachers and collaboration teams with their TfT planning, contributing to a successful and inspiring school-wide event.

### **School Events Update and Highlights**

#### **West - Truth and Reconciliation Learnings | September 27 and December 18**

Our Grade 9 students participated in a commemorative walk through the River Valley, inspired by Chanie Wenjack's story and the Secret Path project. Covering approximately 10 km, the reflective journey honoured the lives impacted by residential schools and provided students with time to connect with the land while deepening their understanding of Canada's Indigenous history.

Meanwhile, our Grade 5 classes took part in a powerful Blanket Exercise facilitated by an Edmonton Public Schools consultant. This interactive experience helped students embody the historical impact of colonization, treaties, and residential schools on Indigenous peoples. Through stories and movement, the Blanket Exercise fostered empathy, awareness, and a deeper appreciation for Indigenous voices and perspectives.

Both events were important steps in our ongoing journey of learning, listening, and walking in solidarity with Indigenous communities.

#### **Northeast and West - Grandparents/Special Friends Day | October 6 and 16**

Our K-9 campuses warmly welcomed grandparents and special friends for our annual Grandparents/Special Friends Day, a cherished tradition that celebrates God's faithfulness through the generations. Guests enjoyed a meaningful morning filled with student performances, classroom visits, and heartfelt moments of connection. The event highlighted the deep intergenerational bonds within our school community and offered students a chance to honour the important role their grandparents and special friends play in their lives. We are deeply grateful to all who joined us and helped make these days so memorable.

#### **Northeast and West READ IN Week | October 7-11**

READ IN Week was a joyful celebration of literacy, centered around the theme "*Reading is for Everyone!*" The week nurtured a love for reading through meaningful

and engaging experiences for all students. Special guests—including community leaders, athletes, politicians, retired teachers, and parents—shared their passion for reading, encouraging students to see books as gateways to imagination, empathy, and new ideas. Highlights included pajama buddy reading, book character dress-up, a Mystery Reader contest, creative door decorating, and “reading in the dark” with finger flashlights. These activities reminded students that literacy is more than a skill—it’s a lifelong gift that connects and inspires.

### **Northeast Turkey Trot | October 3, 2025**

On October 3rd, ECNS held its annual Turkey Trot for Division 2 students, a fun and uplifting event that brought our school community together in celebration of teamwork and joy. The event, held on the soccer field, encouraged students to engage in physical activity while supporting one another in the spirit of fellowship. Parents and guardians were invited to join, cheering on their children and fostering a sense of unity and encouragement. The Turkey Trot was more than just a run—it was an opportunity to build relationships, model Christ-like support, and reflect the values of teamwork and kindness that are central to our school community.

### **Northeast - Garth Prince In School residency program | November 28-December 6th**

Students in K–6 were given a unique opportunity to explore African music, singing, and rhythm through engaging workshops with Juno award winning artist Garth Prince. Throughout the week, students gained an appreciation for diverse musical traditions, learned the value of teamwork, and took part in a high-caliber performance on December 6th. The program aligned with our commitment to fostering a rich, inclusive arts education at Edmonton Christian Northeast.

### **West - Christmas Extravaganza | December 11**

This year’s Christmas Extravaganza was a joyful celebration of Jesus’ birth and the gifts of community and creativity. Students from across grades shared their talents through drama, music, and visual art, bringing to life the wonder of the Christmas story. Families packed the gym to enjoy the vibrant performances and festive atmosphere, and students shone with confidence and delight. A highlight of the season, the Extravaganza reminded us of God’s faithfulness and the beauty of coming together as a school community to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

### **West - dancED Residency | January 6-24**

This winter, students and staff at Edmonton Christian West participated in a joyful three-week dancED residency titled *"Get up offa that thang... DANCE 'TIL YOU FEEL BETTER!"* Through high-energy movement and creative expression, the program supported Edmonton Public Schools’ Priority 3 by promoting student well-being and mental health. It also reflected our Teaching for Transformation Throughlines - *God-Worshipper* (through our talents and skills), *Community-Builder*, and *Beauty-Creator* - as students celebrated joy, connection, and the beauty of movement in a culminating performance for the school community.

### **Northeast Walk for Wenjack Grade 9 | January 31 2025**

On Friday, Jan. 31 Gr. 9 students walked 11.5km of river valley trails from Rundle

Park to Northeast River Valley Park for our 'Walk for Wenjack' event. Collectively we walked more than 600 km (approximately the distance that Chanie Wenjack would have had to walk to make it back to his home from Cecilia Jeffrey Residential School). We did this in response to the LA unit we completed, where we studied 3 different tellings of the same story of Chanie Wenjack (Ian Adam's 1967 article, "The Lonely Death of Chanie Wenjack", Joseph Boyden's novella Wenjack, and Gord Downie's Secret Path); students read these accounts to see how different artists try to 'get it right' when telling someone else's story--our walk was our response to the question, how can we 'get it right' so many decades after? This walk was meant to be a 'reconciliation.'

### **Northeast - Options Day Division 2 | February 10 2025**

Division 2 students participate in a variety of activities led by staff and over 20 parent/guardian volunteers! These Community Building and Order Discoverer activities included first aid, weaving loom rag rugs, knot tying, basketball camp, soccer camp, card making, pretzel baking, and much more. These options inspire students to have creative pursuits and encourage them to develop new interests from community mentors.

### **West - Gr. 4-6 Clubs | February to May**

Grades 4-6 students participated in Div. 2 Clubs, a fun and engaging initiative designed by teachers to build community across grades 4 to 6 through shared interests. Students were given the opportunity to choose from a variety of clubs like comics, arts and crafts, board games, quiet social space, physical activity, and choir based on their personal interests. Club time was a hit, with high engagement and positive connections forming between students. To wrap up the year, Gr. 4-6 students will enjoy outdoor games such as Capture the Flag on non-chapel days in June. The club experience has been a meaningful and joyful way to foster belonging and connection.

### **Northeast - Black History Month | February**

February was a month of celebration and reflection as we marked Black History Month with a series of meaningful events that highlighted the richness of Black heritage and culture. A standout experience was a two-day dance residency with Ivan Touko, where K-3 students explored Afrocentric dance, connecting with its vibrant forms of expression. Our Grade 1 students were also treated to special guest readers from the Edmonton Elks, further enriching their understanding of the community. For our Junior High students, we hosted a chapel led by Bert and Karen Richards from Joyful Noise Entertainment, focusing on resilience, celebration, and the power of joy in overcoming adversity. To conclude the month, the entire school gathered for an assembly featuring an inspiring performance by the Meliswze Brothers, showcasing exceptional artistic talent. These events not only deepened our appreciation for Black joy but also fostered a sense of unity and understanding throughout our school community.

### **West - Grade 9 French Exchange in Montreal | February 10-16**

The goal of this trip was to give students an enriched language learning and cultural exposure experience. It allowed students to connect with Francophone peers

from École Secondaire Monseigneur-Richard in Verdun, Québec, and practice their French in real world situations. It enhanced their understanding of French culture and language through real world experiences. It also enriched students' understanding of Canada as a large and diverse country of which they are a part.

### **West - Grade 8 Winter Camp | February 25-26**

Our Grade 8 students at Edmonton Christian West took part in a two-day winter camp experience at Imrie Park Campground near Onoway. Rooted in our Outdoor Education program, the camp focused on developing practical survival skills such as fire and shelter building, cooking, axemanship, and ice fishing - all while embracing the beauty and challenge of God's creation in winter. Students spent both days fully outdoors, returning to school late on the first day and by dismissal on the second. The experience encouraged teamwork, problem-solving, and personal resilience, while strengthening connections with each other and with the natural world.

### **West - Multicultural Week | March 3-7**

Edmonton Christian West celebrated Culture Week - an opportunity for students to honour the rich diversity of God's world and our school community. Each day featured interactive experiences, from multilingual worship and cultural dress-up to global storytime, a lively French Carnival, and a school-wide art display of cultural artifacts. The week concluded with class potlucks where students shared cherished foods from their heritage. Culture Week highlighted our *Community-Builder* and *Image-Reflector* Throughlines, fostering belonging, empathy, and joyful learning across all grades.

### **West and High School - Grade 10 and K-3 Buddies | March to June**

This term, Grade 10 students from Edmonton Christian High partnered with our youngest learners in Kindergarten to Grade 3 to form a special buddy program. Meeting regularly on Wednesdays, the buddy groups spent time building relationships through games, conversations, and seasonal activities - starting with name games and icebreakers, and later moving into student-led mentoring and Easter-themed connections. With a focus on care, mentorship, and belonging, this partnership allowed older students to grow as leaders while our younger students thrived through meaningful small group attention and joyful community time. The program highlighted the power of cross-grade relationships in nurturing a Christ-centred school culture.

### **Northeast Support Staff Return – March 27**

On March 27, our dedicated support staff returned to work after a 9-week labour dispute. We are incredibly grateful for their perseverance and strength during this challenging time. Their return was met with great celebration, including decorations, balloons, and heartfelt reunions with students, staff, and parents.

The announcement of their return was met with an overwhelming cheer that echoed throughout the school. We extend our sincere thanks to the many ECNS parents who visited and supported our staff during the strike, as well as those who donated funds for gift cards to help with basic needs like groceries and gas. Our

support staff were frequently praised by others, with many asking, "What school are you from? You are so loved and supported!"

Our school community truly shone during this time, with parents providing hand warmers, meals, and snacks, demonstrating generosity and compassion. It was a beautiful reflection of God's love through the care and support shown to those in need.

### **West - Hosting Quebec Exchange Students | March 31 - April 6**

Edmonton Christian West had the joy of hosting French exchange students from Québec in a week filled with connection, culture, and community. Our Grade 9 students welcomed their "twins" with icebreaker activities, shared meals, city tours, and joint adventures to places like Activate, Fort Edmonton Park, West Edmonton Mall, Banff and Canmore. Throughout the week, students built friendships while showcasing our city, school, and hospitality. The experience reflected our commitment to being *Community-Builders* and *Image-Reflectors*, offering rich opportunities for cross-cultural learning and meaningful relationships.

### **West - K-9 Celebration of Learning | April 10**

Edmonton Christian West hosted our K-9 Celebration of Learning, welcoming families into classrooms to experience student learning firsthand. From interactive displays and student-led presentations to reflection activities and creative work, the evening was a joyful showcase of growth, curiosity, and deep hope in action. The event fostered strong home-school partnerships and celebrated the unique gifts of each learner, as students reflected on how their learning connects to God's story.

### **West and High School - Spring Band Festivities | April 26, May 12, and May 14**

To prepare for their Spring Concert, Grades 7-12 band members came together for their first-ever Spring Band Day Camp at Edmonton Christian High School, focussing on community building and music-making. Following the camp, the combined Edmonton Christian West and High School bands performed for their families at the Spring Band Concert, showcasing their talents and hard work. Additionally, they put on a mini concert at Edmonton Christian West for Gr. 4-8 students, providing another wonderful opportunity to celebrate their musical achievements and promote the band program.

### **Northeast sponsored - ECS Family Fun Night Northeast | May 2, 2025**

Our Northeast School Council's ECS 3 Campus Family Fun Night was an overwhelming success, with over 400 attendees! The event brought together families from across our community in a truly inclusive and enjoyable way. God blessed us with a sunny day, and families gathered under the trees, spreading blankets and setting up lawn chairs. Children and parents alike enjoyed the park, soccer fields, basketball court, and sidewalk chalk activities.

This event would not have been possible without the tremendous efforts of our dedicated School Council executive, and our amazing parent, student, and staff volunteers. School Council Exec coordinated the volunteers, ordered and served pizza and juice boxes, generously funded by the Society. It was a fantastic evening that

highlighted the strong sense of commUNITY at Edmonton Christian Schools, and we are grateful to all those who made it such a memorable event.

### **Northeast - Multicultural Week | May 5-9**

On May 9 we celebrated the diversity within our Jr. High with a *Multicultural Day Event*. This is the fifth year that we have hosted this event. In April JH students, staff and our Pastoral Care Leader met in the Auditorium for Chapel followed by weeks of planning and preparations. The culminating event was a lunch that operates much like Edmonton's well-known Heritage Days Festival, where different countries set up booths/tables that showcase their country/culture while also serving up portions of their cuisine. Our students were so excited to share different regions and countries and parents joined to view the displays and sample cuisine.

This year, our K-6 students joined in the fun by participating in a vibrant Multicultural Week that fostered a strong sense of belonging by celebrating the rich diversity within our school community. Throughout the week, many classes came together to share traditional dishes during cultural feasts, promoting connection and appreciation through food. In classrooms, students engaged in cross-curricular activities that explored cultural identity and heritage. All K-9 students were encouraged to wear their cultural attire on May 9, creating a colorful and inclusive atmosphere that highlighted the unique backgrounds of each child. Through these shared experiences, students felt seen, valued, and connected, reinforcing a school culture where everyone belongs.

### **West - Div. 1 and Div. 2 Choir Clubs | All-Year**

This year, both Division 1 and Division 2 Choir Clubs provided students with a joyful opportunity to worship through song and build community through music. Weekly rehearsals were filled with energy and enthusiasm as students developed their musical gifts and prepared to share them with others. For the Division 2 Choir, the year culminated in a special field trip on May 16 where students had the privilege of performing and visiting with residents at Emmanuel Home and The Lighthouse. It was a meaningful day of music, connection, and service - an opportunity to bless others and celebrate the gift of music God has given us.

### **West - Junior High Wellness Crews | May 23**

This year, the Junior High Leadership Club has been instrumental in building a culture of belonging and positive school spirit through various school wide community events. On May 23, led by our Junior High Leadership Club and supported by staff, Junior High Wellness Crews got Gr. 7-9 mixed-grade teams participating in intentional activities that promote connection, teamwork, and fun. Wellness Crew events, like number basketball, multi-soccer, three-legged race, and tug of war - were designed to strengthen relationships and support student well-being - living out our commitment to being *Community-Builders* in God's story.

### **West - Free Family Movie Night | May 24**

Edmonton Christian West hosted our very first *FREE Family Movie Night*, bringing together families from across Edmonton Christian Schools for an evening of laughter, connection, and fun. Featuring the beloved *Dog Man* story, this event was a



wonderful opportunity to build community, create joyful memories, and enjoy time together in a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere.

### **West - Knock! Knock! Junior High Drama Production | May 30**

Our Drama class delighted audiences with multiple performances of *Knock Knock*, a lively and humorous play about delivery people encountering a cast of quirky and unexpected characters on their route.

### **West - K-6 Track and Field Day | June 4**

Led by Gr. 8 leaders, students in Grades K-6 enjoyed a fun-filled Track and Field Day packed with outdoor activities, friendly competition, and school spirit. A special thank-you went out to the ECWS School Council, who generously provided a hot dog lunch for all students and staff. Their ongoing support helped make the day even more memorable!

### **Northeast & West - Grade 9 Frontier Lodge Trip | May 27-30 and June**

This overnight trip is part of the Grade 9 Outdoor Education course. From it, we hope the students grow in their appreciation for God's creation and grow in their desire to be good stewards of that creation. The trip will also give them a chance to experience a variety of recreational wilderness activities that they may carry into their adult lives.

### **Northeast - Volunteer Appreciation Event | June 20**

As part of our continued commitment to recognizing and celebrating the incredible contributions of our community, Edmonton Christian Northeast is pleased to host an upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Event. This special gathering is our way of saying thank you to the many individuals who have generously given their time and talents during the 2025–2026 school year.

We warmly invite all volunteers who have served at Edmonton Christian NE to join us for an afternoon of student performances, light refreshments, meaningful fellowship, and good company. This event is a celebration of the many, many hands that support our students as they learn to play their role in God's story. We are deeply grateful for the impact our volunteers have on the life of the school, and we look forward to expressing that gratitude in person.

### **Northeast - National Indigenous Peoples Day Assembly | June 20**

The upcoming National Indigenous Peoples Day assembly on June 23 at ECNS will provide students with an opportunity to learn about and appreciate Indigenous cultures. The event will highlight the rich traditions and histories of Indigenous peoples, fostering a sense of respect and understanding among students. The assembly will feature a Jingle dance performance, a student-created land acknowledgement video, and a Grand entry from ECNS students. Throughout the week, students will also engage in activities such as Indigenous games, Creation Buddy walks, and Métis rock art, further enriching their understanding of Indigenous cultures. These activities align with our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and our call to "love thy neighbor," reinforcing our dedication to appreciate our diverse school community.

### **Northeast - Sportnic Field Day | June 23**

Led by Grade 9 student leaders, students in Grades K-6 will enjoy a fun-filled field day packed with games and activities at nine stations including: Water Cannon Cup Crasher, Linkin' Loops, Parachute Popcorn Party, and more! A special thank-you to the ECNS School Council who voted to generously provide snacks for all students. Their ongoing support helps make these days loads of fun for everyone!

### **Northeast - Grade 2 FLEX project: Visits at Emmanuel Home | Ongoing**

This year, ECNS Grade 2 students continued their annual service project, creating 286 Christmas gift packages for clients at The Mustard Seed. They collected treats like hot chocolate and candy canes, wrapped them with care, and included handmade cards. These gifts, delivered on Christmas Eve, were often the only ones received.

Megan Schuring, ECNS grandparent and Mustard Seed staff member, visited to share the needs of Edmonton's vulnerable community and highlighted Northeast Christian's 20-year legacy of service. In spring, students donated money—some emptied their piggy banks—to buy socks and underwear for the school auction. Proceeds were used to support The Mustard Seed. Through this project, students learned they can be Servant Workers and Image Bearers, making a difference by sharing God's love.

### **Northeast - Elementary Sing, Div 2 Chapels, Junior High Chapels | Ongoing**

Each week throughout the school year, our K-9 students participate in rotating divisional chapels, with Division 1, 2, and 3 groups gathering in the auditorium. These chapel times are a cornerstone of our school's spiritual life, providing opportunities for communal prayer, worship, and meaningful spiritual growth. Student leadership is a key element of these gatherings, as students actively participate in planning and leading various components of the service. In addition, our Pastoral Care Leader Cely Vieira regularly shares messages that encourage and deepen our understanding of scripture, helping to foster a strong and connected school community rooted in Christian values.

### **Northeast - Sports and Athletics | Ongoing**

Throughout the school year, we've had the privilege of hosting and attending a variety of exciting sports events that not only foster athletic growth but also build a strong sense of community among our students. Our senior students kicked off the season with a dynamic experience at the PICS Volleyball Tournament, followed by ECNS hosting a junior volleyball tournament in November, where teams competed with passion and spirit. The LIONS Block Party was another highlight, bringing energy and excitement to the season. Our senior boys volleyball team took their talents to the Louis St. Laurent Tournament, showcasing their skills against tough competition. January brought the highly anticipated junior JAMBoree, a fun and competitive event that energized our athletes, and in February, our seniors traveled to the Calgary Christian Tournament for more thrilling matchups.

One of the standout events of the year was our Invitational Senior Basketball

Tournament, held from February 20–22. This tournament gave our athletes a chance to shine on the court, while also providing students with the opportunity to support and cheer on their peers through our "Adopt a School" initiative. Students rallied behind the teams, learning valuable lessons in teamwork, sportsmanship, and the joy of encouraging one another.

For our elementary students, we offered PrimeTime in term 1, a unique program that gets our youngest learners moving and energized before school. Led by teachers and parents, PrimeTime sessions provide students with team-oriented games and whole-body movement, all designed to help activate their minds and prepare them for a day of focused learning. Inspired by the book *Spark* by Dr. John J Ratey, the program is built on the principle that "active kids equal active minds," helping our students cultivate a love for physical activity while boosting their mental readiness for the classroom.

We are truly grateful to our dedicated coaches, volunteers, and staff members, especially our Athletic Director, Brady Van Ry, whose tireless commitment helps elevate our athletics program. This work creates an environment where students grow not only in athletic ability but also in their faith, glorifying God through teamwork and dedication.

### **High School - Head, Heart, Hands Chapel | Sep 19**

This year at the high school students and staff have continued their work to "Love our neighbour" and to build a community of belonging. During our first chapel students had a time of worship followed by a whole school effort to create food packages for the Mustard Seed and Tegler Center.

### **High School - Grade 9 students (W & NE) visit the High School | - Nov 22**

The grade 9 students from both the West and the Northeast campuses join together at the High School for a day exploring what it will be like to attend the High School in grade 10. This is also a great opportunity to build some community and connections. High School students and teachers together create experiences that build community and facilitate the important conversations that will help students decide what High School will be the best for their next educational step.

### **High School - Christmas "Banquet" and Dance | - Dec 19**

Student leadership planned and hosted a great community building event where students had opportunities to socialize in an uplifting fun evening event. Food for the evening was a Nacho bar - buffet style - and the entertainment was dancing and student lead icebreaker activities.

### **High School - "Arsenic and Old Lace" Drama Production | - Feb 9-15**

After months of preparation, all the students from the high school and the grade 9s from both NE and West enjoyed matinee productions of our annual high school drama production. A highly entertaining time was shared by students and staff alike. Students involved in the play put on 6 shows in 4 days during an exhausting and exhilarating run. The show was entirely run by student cast and crew

members and brought hundreds of community members, alumni and families together at La Cite Francophone theatre.

### **High School - Visit Elder Betty Ross | Feb 19**

One of ECS graduates, Eppo Erkes, created a documentary film about the life story of Elder Betty Ross. She is a residential school survivor. Our students had an opportunity to meet Elder Betty and Eppo Eerkes in person and connect with them as they shared their stories and how the stories intertwined.

### **High School - Student Course Selection | March/April 2025**

Grades 9, 10 & 11 students met in person with either Assistant Principal Mr. Epp or Curriculum Coordinator Mr. Boschman to begin/review their three year high school academic plans and to choose courses for the next school year. Once this has been completed, the high school can begin the scheduling process for the 2025-2026 school year.

### **High School - Grade 12 Passion Project Evening | May 15**

Our grade 12 students attended an evening celebration on May 15 where they shared their passion projects with each other, staff, parents and community members. These projects celebrated how they are playing their role in God's story, using their gifts and talents to enrich the lives of others in our community. [Here is an overview of the project.](#)

### **High School - Grade 12 Jasper Trip | May 28-30**

Our grade 12 students wrap up their time at ECS with an overnight trip in the mountains. Activities will centre around hiking and spending time in God's creation. Opportunities are created for students to reflect on God's work in their lives and their calling for the future. This experience is also a great opportunity to reflect on the blessing of being a community grounded in Christian education.

### **Northeast, West, and High School - 3 Campus Wicahitowin | April 24th**

Parents and staff from the 3 ECS campuses participated in our second annual Wicahitowin night. It was a powerful evening of delicious food, relationship-building, and cultural learning held at Edmonton Christian Northeast School. Grounded in the theme of *listening and learning*, the event brought together students, staff, families, and community members to engage with four Indigenous leaders who shared their personal stories, teachings, and perspectives. The panel featured Katie Holubowich, Harold Roscher, Debbie Semeniuk, and Kevin John—each contributing lived experience and insight shaped by their own walks in faith.

The evening opened with a reflection on the importance of humility and open-hearted listening, reminding attendees that “there is no reconciliation without truth.” Framed by the biblical call to love God and neighbor, the conversation explored how Indigenous identity, faith, and healing intersect. Through storytelling and dialogue, participants were invited to deepen their understanding of Indigenous cultures and histories while being equipped to continue walking the path of reconciliation in meaningful and relational ways. The Deep Hope of the night was that together we remain committed to engaging in peaceful dialogue to deepen understanding, challenge preconceived ideas, identify biases, and move towards reconciliation to restore right relationships with our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

### **Northeast, West, and High School 3 Campus Worship Night | May 5, 2025**

Each week, students at Northeast gather together to worship the Lord in a time known as “Elementary Sing.” For the second year in a row, we shared this experience with our 3 Campus community by gathering for a Family Worship Night in the Northeast School auditorium. It was a beautiful sunny night outside, and we had about 60 individuals come together with one purpose—to be *God Worshipers*. It was such a blessing to witness our staff and Grade 5 Student leaders come together to lead worship. What a joy it is to sing and praise the Lord as one school commUNITY!

### **Restorative Practices**

Restorative Discipline helps to grow our students at Image Bearers, Community Builders, and Justice Seekers whilst strengthening our community. We understand that discipline is intended to train and teach Christ-like attitudes and actions. The Society has supported ECS teachers in being trained in Restorative Practice over the past many years, and we are looking at additional training for the fall of 2025 for teachers who have not yet had this Professional Learning. Not only has it informed and guided our discipline practices at ECS, we have used the philosophy to create community. Here are some of the many ways circles are used to create positive relationships and maintain classroom atmospheres conducive to learning and student safety:

- Classroom circles
  - Checking-in and checking-out
  - Developing class norms (co-creating expectations for a safe and welcoming space and classroom community)
  - Conflict resolution - identifying harmful behaviours, seeking forgiveness, moving towards healing and healthy boundaries
    - Identifying lagging skills and maladaptive behaviours
    - Using circles to be proactive; building, repairing, and strengthening relationships, interactions and problem solving

These approaches are consistently aligned with the ESCE Restorative Discipline Policy, which provides the following rationale for addressing student misconduct with restorative discipline:

*Reconciliation is at the heart of God's redemptive activity. It's about God "making peace" with and between human beings. Reconciliation is the work of God's grace whereby estranged relationships are mended. Christians have been entrusted with the message of reconciliation and humans are bearers of the message. Shalom is another theme in Scripture. It describes a state of goodness where all is right, just, truthful, whole, complete and harmonious.*

## **Conclusion**

As we reflect on the progress and growth of the past year, we are reminded once again of God's faithfulness and the strength of the Edmonton Christian School community. The dedication of our staff, the support of our families, and the partnership of our board have all played a vital role in helping our students learn to live lives of service, rooted in their identity in Christ.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to fostering a Christ-centred learning environment where every student is encouraged to grow academically, spiritually, and relationally. Thank you for continuing to support the Vision and Mission, and for your leadership and prayers as we partner together in identity formation as both learners and disciples of Jesus.

With gratitude,

***Karla Loberg-Walter***

Principal, ECS Northeast

***Hendrik Wolmarans***

Principal, ECS West & HS

## Appendix A: Member-Proposed Bylaw Revision

### *Proposal Package*

To: The Board of Trustees  
The Edmonton Society for Christian Education  
14303 109 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5N 1H6

Subject: Request for Special Meeting to Propose Revisions to Membership Bylaws

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

We, the undersigned members of the Edmonton Society for Christian Education (ESCE), hereby request a special meeting of the ESCE membership. The purpose of this special meeting is to propose and pass a special resolution to revise the current membership bylaws.

The proposed revisions to the membership bylaws are attached to this request, along with detailed explanations for each suggested change. We believe these revisions are essential to ensure that only genuinely engaged community members are eligible to vote.

We understand that the Board of Trustees, with the help of the Policy Committee, has been working on revising the membership bylaws but the process appears to have stalled. Given the urgency of this matter, we believe it is crucial to pass revisions as soon as possible.

In accordance with the ESCE bylaws, we are required to obtain signatures from at least one quarter of the membership. By signing below, we affirm our support for this request and urge the Board to schedule the special meeting at the earliest possible date.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your prompt response and to working together for the benefit and stability of the ESCE community.

Sincerely and in Christ,

Appendix A: Member-Proposed Bylaw Revision  
*Proposal Package*

#### **4. Membership**

4.1 The Society shall have two categories of membership which shall be:

- (a) Active and
- (b) Inactive

Any individual who is neither an active member nor an inactive member shall be referred to as a non-member.

4.1.1 For purposes of section 4, a year refers to the fiscal year of the Society.

4.2 A non-member or inactive member may apply to become an active member if:

- (a) the individual has attained the age of eighteen years AND
- (b) is either:
  - (i) a parent, legal guardian, or grandparent of a current or former student at one of the schools operated by the Society, OR
  - (ii) a former student of one of the schools operated by the Society, OR
  - (iii) an employee or former employee of the Society, OR
  - (iv) an employee or former employee at one of the schools operated by the Society, OR
  - (v) is an individual who has donated a minimum of \$250 to the Society in the current year and two of the previous three years, AND
- (c) the individual is in agreement with the basis of The Society as herein before set out AND
- (d) the individual desires to aid in the achievement of the objectives of the Society AND
- (e) is a resident of Alberta.

4.2.1 For purposes of sub-clause 4.2(b)(i) and 4.2(b)(ii), "one of the schools operated by the Society" includes schools previously operated by the Society, if the former student was a student at the school at the time the Society operated the school.

4.3 A non-member or inactive member who meets the criteria in section 4.2 may apply to become an active member by providing to the Society office:

- (a) a signed Statement of Faith, which summarizes the basis of the Society as described in section 2, AND



Appendix A: Member-Proposed Bylaw Revision  
*Proposal Package*

- (b) government issued photo identification, AND
- (c) a contribution of \$50, AND
- (d) a completed membership application form providing sufficient information to demonstrate the criteria for membership has been met in accordance with clause 4.2(b) above.

- 4.3.1 The application form in clause 4.3(d) is to be signed by the applicant and indicate that the information provided is true and accurate.
- 4.3.2 The \$50 contribution is waived for the parent or guardian of a current student of one of the schools operated by the Society for which school fees have been paid.
- 4.3.3 The Society may take up to 30 days to verify the accuracy of the information provided. After 30 days, if there have been no inaccuracies identified, the non-member or inactive member becomes an active member on the day after the completion of the 30 days. Inaccuracies identified should be communicated to the individual in writing as soon as they are identified, and the individual can then provide any additional evidence available to support that they meet the membership criteria. If, after reviewing the information and additional evidence provided, the individual does not meet the membership criteria in clauses 4.2(a)(b) or (e), as determined by the Executive Director of the Society or a person delegated by the Board of Trustees, the individual remains an inactive member or non-member, as applicable.
- 4.4 An active member becomes an inactive member if by the end of the ninth month of a particular year, the individual no longer meets the criteria described in section 4.2.
  - 4.4.1 Transitional rules. Each member who is an active member at the time this section of the bylaws, as amended, becomes **effective ("the effective date"), that is not as** of the effective date, a parent or guardian of a student attending one of the schools operated by the Society, shall within three months of the effective date, provide to the Society a completed form demonstrating how the member meets the criteria described in clause 4.2(b), and (e). For purposes of sub-clause 4.2(b)(v), a member that has donated \$25 in the year that includes the effective date or any prior year, shall be considered to have contributed \$250 for those particular

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*Proposal Package*

years. Any active member that is not a parent or guardian of a current student who has not provided the form within three months of the effective date or who does not meet the criteria in clause 4.2(b) or (e), becomes an inactive member at the end of the three months.

4.5 Any active member or inactive member may become a non-member by making a written request to the Society.

4.6 An inactive member shall become a non-member if, as of the first day of a year, the inactive member has been an inactive member throughout the previous two years.

4.7 Only active members are entitled to vote at membership meetings.

4.8 Any member may be expelled by a special resolution of the Board for reason of any act found to be in conflict with the basis of the Society. Before a member can be expelled, the Board must:

- a. send to the member written notice of the proposed discipline or expulsion, including reasons, AND
- b. give the member thirty days to make representations to the Board respecting the proposed discipline or expulsion.

4.9 A member receiving a written notice as referred to in section 4.8 shall have the right to a fair hearing before any decision is made. The hearing shall be conducted by six active members. The Board shall invite active members to apply to be one of the six members who will conduct the hearing (**"the applicants"**). The member who is subject to the potential expulsion may remove up to one quarter of the applicants. The six members to conduct the hearing shall be selected randomly from the remaining applicants. The member shall only be expelled if at least four of the six members vote to expel the member.

4.10 Any reference to a member in the bylaws shall be a reference to an active member unless stated otherwise.

## Appendix A: Member-Proposed Bylaw Revision

### *Proposal Package*

Edmonton Society for Christian Education Members,

Please find below further explanations and reasons for the proposed bylaw amendments.

#### ***Membership classification***

Our current bylaws do not clearly define active or inactive membership nor is complete on how individuals may move between the categories of membership. Our current membership includes over 10,000 inactive members, including several who have passed away. The proposed amendments to the bylaws clarify the two categories of membership and provide a mechanism for active members to become inactive members and for inactive members to become non-members.

#### ***Criteria for membership***

We believe membership should be restricted to individuals that have a connection with the Society or with the schools operated by the Society. Our current bylaws make it easy for an individual with no connection to the Society or its schools to become a member and have influence over decisions made. We believe our members should have a connection to the Society or show long-term commitment to the Society and the schools which it operates.

##### *Parents / Legal Guardians / Grandparents*

Parents, legal guardians, and grandparents have a vested interest in the quality and direction of the schools and are likely to be more engaged and active in the society's activities and decision-making processes. They can provide valuable feedback and support for the Society's initiatives and programs.

##### *Employees / Staff / Teachers*

Employees, staff, and teachers have firsthand knowledge of the school's operations and educational needs. They are likely to be highly committed to the Society's mission and values. Their involvement in the Society leads to a stronger sense of community.

##### *Former students, parents, grandparents*

Former students, parents, and grandparents provide a long-term perspective on the school's development and traditions. They help build a strong network for fundraising and community support. This group has a strong sense of loyalty and commitment to the Society and its schools.

##### *Former teachers*

Former teachers bring valuable experience and historical knowledge of the school and can serve as mentors to current teachers, principals, and the board of trustees. Their involvement also leads to a stronger sense of community.

##### *Long-term donors*

Providing membership to individuals who have consistently donated to the Society and its schools allows individuals who are truly passionate about the Society's principles to participate in the decision-making process.

#### ***Membership fees***

We believe fees should not be a roadblock to becoming a member and therefore the amended bylaws only increase fees for membership from \$25 to \$50 for most members. Requiring consistent and continued contributions for others ensures only those truly committed to the Society's principles have influence over the decision-making processes.

#### ***Application for Active Membership***

We recognize it may be difficult for Society staff to verify the necessary criteria for membership has been met. The proposed amendments to the bylaws require individuals to complete an application

## Appendix A: Member-Proposed Bylaw Revision

### *Proposal Package*

form that demonstrates how they meet the membership criteria. It also requires that they sign a statement indicating that the information provided is true and accurate. The proposed amendments allow Society staff, under the supervision of the Executive Director or equivalent delegate of the Board, thirty days to find any inaccuracies in the information provided at their discretion. If there are no inaccuracies identified within thirty days of the receipt of the membership application, the individual becomes an active member after the thirty days are complete. The thirty-day period also ensures there is no membership application rush in the days leading up to a general or special meeting.

There is a transitional rule provided in Section 4.4.1

A sample application form has been provided.

#### ***Membership expulsion***

Although we hope this is never necessary, the current bylaws do not provide a clear process for membership expulsion. The proposed amendments provide a clear and fair process, which we hope never has to be used.

Appendix A: Member-Proposed Bylaw Revision  
*Proposal Package*

**Sample Membership Application Form**

Full name of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Province of residence: \_\_\_\_\_

I am (check at least one that applies):

\_\_\_\_\_ a parent, legal guardian, or grandparent of a current student at one of the schools operated by the Society

    Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_

    School that student attends: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ a parent, legal guardian, or grandparent of a former student

    Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_

    School that student attended: \_\_\_\_\_

    Year(s) that student attended: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ an employee of the Society

\_\_\_\_\_ an employee at one of the schools operated by the Society

\_\_\_\_\_ I have donated at least \$250 to the Society in three of the previous four years

Certification:

I certify that the information given on this application is correct and accurate. I understand that the Society may contact me within 30 days if they consider any information to be inaccurate or require additional information. I understand I am not an active member of the Society until 30 days after this membership application is received if the application is approved.

Sign here \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Internal use (initials):

Government-issued identification provided \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Faith provided \_\_\_\_\_

Required contribution received \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt provided \_\_\_\_\_

# Appendix B: Board-Proposed Bylaw Revision

## *Proposal Package*

### Introduction

This report outlines the proposed bylaw revisions for the Edmonton Society for Christian Education (ESCE) membership criteria, which will be presented as a special resolution at the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM). These changes are in response to community feedback and are designed to ensure that voting membership remains aligned with the mission and vision of the Society and reflects active participation in the school community.

### Community Survey Results

We conducted a survey and spent considerable time reviewing the responses, consulting community members, and carefully considering the feedback provided by email.

**The following percentages reflect the preferences of survey respondents regarding who should be eligible for membership.** These results have guided our proposal to ensure our membership reflects the voices of those most engaged with our schools and Society.

• Current Parents	100%
• Alumni	53%
• Current Staff (ECS/ESCE)	52%
• Current Grandparents	45%
• Current AND Former Staff	36%
• All - no restrictions (current structure)	33%
• Parents of Alumni	22%
• All - with only location restrictions	10%
• Only those who are active in the schools	8%
• Current Parents AND their Families	4%
• Former Grandparents	4%
• Large Donors	3%
• Current AND Former Parents	3%
• Founding Members	3%

*\*The percentages in the survey results do not add up to 100% because respondents were able to indicate multiple groups they felt should be eligible for membership. This means that individuals could support voting rights for more than one category.*

**It would be easy to follow the approach of many other alternative programs and limit membership to only current parents.** However, we've heard you, and we recognize the value of including a few other key groups who **actively support** and contribute to our schools and Society. This proposal reflects that balance.

## Key Changes to Bylaws (Special Resolution)

These proposed amendments refine the eligibility criteria for membership by adjusting the qualification process and reaffirming the importance of active engagement in the Society.

### 1. Membership Validation Process

- To **renew membership annually**, members will need to complete a **quick online form** confirming that they still meet the eligibility criteria and provide verification in some instances.
- This validation process ensures that only eligible and engaged individuals maintain membership status.

### 2. Eligible Membership Categories

- Membership will be open to individuals who meet at least **one** of the following criteria:
  - **Alumni** of Edmonton Christian Schools (Grade 12 Graduate) who reside in the Edmonton census metropolitan area (CMA) as delineated by Statistics Canada. *Edmonton CMA includes the following 34 census subdivisions (municipalities or municipality equivalents):*
    - *six cities (Beaumont, Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan, Leduc, Spruce Grove and St. Albert);*
    - *one specialized municipality (Strathcona County, which includes the Sherwood Park urban service area);*
    - *three municipal districts (Leduc County, Parkland County, and Sturgeon County);*
    - *ten towns (Bon Accord, Bruderheim, Calmar, Devon, Gibbons, Legal, Morinville, Redwater, Stony Plain and Thorsby);*

- *two villages (Spring Lake and Warburg);*
  - *eight summer villages (Betula Beach, Golden Days, Itaska Beach, Kapasiwin, Lakeview, Point Alison, Seba Beach, and Sundance Beach); and*
  - *four Indian reserves for three First Nations (Alexander 134 of the Alexander First Nation, Enoch Cree Nation 135 of the Enoch Cree Nation, and Wabamun 133A and 133B of the Paul First Nation).*
- **Current Grandparents** of an ECS student (Kindergarten to Grade 12) with no location restrictions.
  - **Current Parents** of an ECS student (Kindergarten to Grade 12)

## Rationale for Changes

1. These adjustments are a **direct response to feedback from community members** who have expressed concerns about non-invested individuals influencing Society decisions.
2. Without these changes, the Society remains **vulnerable to external influences** from individuals who are not actively engaged in the daily life of our school community and do not align with its mission.
3. These measures ensure that those who **actively contribute to the schools and community** are the ones shaping its direction.
4. The **geographic requirement for Alumni** ensures that these members are within reasonable driving distance of the schools to **participate** in volunteer activities, attend AGMs, and support Society events. Unlike parents and grandparents, alumni without a current student connection to the schools rely on proximity to stay actively engaged. **Those further away are less likely to be meaningfully involved.**

## Clarification on the Exclusion of Current Staff

Survey results indicated strong support for **including alumni, current grandparents, and current parents** in the eligible membership categories. A fourth group—current ECS/ESCE staff—also received some support. However, after careful consideration, this group was not included in the proposed membership criteria due to a potential conflict of interest.



**Society members vote on financial matters that directly impact current staff, including professional development funds, facility enhancements, school support, etc.** Allowing current staff (ECS/ESCE) to vote on these financial matters could create a situation where individuals are making decisions that provide them with a **professional advantage**, as it is natural for individuals to prioritize decisions that directly benefit their own professional circumstances.

We want to emphasize that this exclusion is not a reflection of our appreciation for our staff. On the contrary, we deeply value their dedication and contributions to Edmonton Christian Schools. **The Society's ongoing financial investments in professional development, school facilities, and staff support services are a testament to our commitment to their well-being and success.**

It is important to note that current ECS and ESCE staff who are alumni, current parents or current grandparents will **still have the ability to be members and vote** under those eligibility categories.

## Clarification on Voting Rights versus Support for ESCE

This special resolution specifically impacts voting decisions within the Edmonton Society for Christian Education (ESCE). It does not limit anyone's genuine desire to support Edmonton Christian Schools (ECS) and ESCE through prayer, employment, volunteer efforts, or financial contributions.

Membership and voting should be reserved for those who are directly affected by decisions made at the Society level. Extended family members, former and current staff, and others who do not have a direct connection to ESCE may care deeply about Christian education but are not directly affected by ESCE governance decisions.

## Acknowledging Exclusions

We recognize that, under these proposed changes, some individuals may be excluded from membership who may have previously been eligible. We understand and sympathize with those who are impacted by this, and we do not take this lightly. However, we also understand that **failing to make these adjustments could leave the door open to unconnected parties influencing our AGMs.** We believe that to protect the integrity of our Society and ensure that those who are **most invested** in our schools have a voice, we need to implement these necessary limitations.

Additionally, it is important to acknowledge that changes to the membership structure will also place additional demands on the Society staff and current software programs. Implementing and managing these changes will require extra administrative effort, and may necessitate investments in software or systems to track and manage membership effectively. We are committed to balancing these operational realities with the need for an updated and more effective membership structure.

## Reference to the Previous Special Resolution (2024)

Last year, a similar special resolution was proposed, focusing on refining membership eligibility and ensuring that voting rights were held by those most impacted by the Society's decisions. That proposal included:

- Membership eligibility restricted to current parents, grandparents, and staff.
- A revised approach to membership fees, allowing flexibility in fee determination.
- A mechanism for granting membership to those demonstrating exceptional dedication.

**Despite its alignment with best practices, the resolution did not pass at the AGM.**

## Conclusion

These proposed bylaw revisions are essential to ensuring that the Society remains **faithful to its mission** and that decisions reflect the interests of those directly engaged with Edmonton Christian Schools. By refining membership eligibility and introducing safeguards against external influence, we are fostering a **stronger, more unified school community**. We encourage all members to review these changes carefully and participate in the upcoming vote to shape the future of ESCE.

## Outline of Proposed Changes

Reference: [4. Membership](#)

<p>4.1 Any person who has attained the age of eighteen years, who is in agreement with the basis of the Society as herein before set out, who desires to aid in the achievement of the objectives of the Society, meets at least one of the membership criteria outlined in clause 4.1.1, and signs the Statement of Faith, which summarizes the basis of the Society as found in clause two above shall be considered an inactive (nonvoting) member.</p>	<p>ADD: meets at least one of the membership criteria outlined in clause 4.1.1</p>
<p>4.1.1 To qualify for membership, individuals must meet at least one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1.1.1 Be a parent of a current ECS student (Kindergarten to Grade 12).</li> <li>4.1.1.2 Be a grandparent of a current ECS student (Kindergarten to Grade 12)</li> <li>4.1.1.3 Be an alumnus of Edmonton Christian High School (Grade 12 graduate) who resides in the Edmonton census metropolitan area (CMA) as delineated by Statistics Canada.</li> </ul>	<p>ADD: 4.1.1 (this is a new clause)</p>
<p>4.2 Any inactive member may become an active (voting) member by making a tax-receiptable donation to the Society of not less than \$25.00 per single or \$50.00 per couple. Members must also continue to meet the criteria outlined in clause 4.1.1 to attain active status. The donation required for membership is waived in the case of persons who have children attending a School operated by the Society and who are paying program fees.</p>	<p>ADD: Members must also continue to meet the criteria outlined in clause 4.1.1 to attain active status.</p>
<p>4.3 Continuous active membership is dependent upon continued support of the Statement of Faith, continued compliance with the criteria outlined in clause 4.1.1, and regular financial support of the Society in the amount of \$25.00 or more per single or \$50.00 or more per couple per year.</p>	<p>ADD: and continued compliance with the criteria outlined in clause 4.1.1</p>

<p>4.4 Only active members are entitled to vote at membership meetings.</p> <p>4.5 Any member may withdraw from membership in the Society by notifying the Board.</p> <p>4.6 Any member may be expelled by vote of the Board for reason of any act found to be in conflict with the basis of the Society.</p> <p>4.7 Members will have access to an appeal mechanism comprised of four (4) active (voting) Society members.</p>	<p><i>No changes to these clauses.</i></p>
<p>4.8 The membership year is defined as running from September 1 to August 31.</p> <p>4.8.1 For example, to be an active member eligible to vote at the June 2029 Annual General Meeting (AGM), an individual must have met the membership criteria and submitted the minimum required donation on or after September 1, 2028. Membership will no longer be considered active after August 31, 2029.</p>	<p><b>ADD: This is a new clause and subclause.</b></p>

## What Other Schools Do

To help guide thoughtful discernment, we've looked at how some other Public Alternative Program Christian schools in Alberta define their Society membership.

- *Millwoods Christian (Edmonton)*: Elders board of Calvary Community Church + 10 others appointed by the board only.
- *Meadowlark Christian (Edmonton)*: The MCS Foundation Advisory Council, made up of seven Parent Directors, along with the Executive Director (non-voting) only.
- *Strathcona Christian (Sherwood Park)*: Elders board of Sherwood Park Alliance Church only.
- *Fort Saskatchewan Christian*: Current parents only.
- *Covenant Christian (Leduc)*: Anyone who agrees with the Education Vision Statement.
- *Calgary Christian*: Current parents only.
- *Fort McMurray Christian*: All who affirm the requirements set by the Alberta Department of Education, who support Christian teaching and upbringing in accordance with the principles and standards of the infallible Word of God, and who have paid both their membership fee and their school fees.
- *Immanuel Christian (Lethbridge)*: Current parents only.
- *Gateway Christian (Red Deer)*: Current parents only.

## Appendix C: Board Input on Bylaw Change Proposals

As you prepare to vote on the proposed bylaw changes, the Board of Trustees would like to offer a few important clarifications to help support thoughtful and informed decision-making.

We affirm the shared desire for a strong, engaged membership and thank those who have contributed to the ongoing conversation around how best to safeguard the mission of Edmonton Christian Schools. In that spirit, we highlight the following concerns with sections of the proposed bylaw amendments.

### Member-Initiated Bylaw Proposal

*This proposed revision was submitted by members of the Society, not by the Board of Trustees.*

#### **Key Concern: Section 4.10 – Who Is Considered a “Member”?**

**Proposed Clause: 4.10:** “Any reference to a member in the bylaws shall be a reference to an active member unless stated otherwise.”

#### **What This Means:**

This new definition would change the meaning of the word “member” across [all](#) of the Society’s bylaws. Unless another section explicitly says “inactive member,” this clause would mean that:

- Inactive members would no longer be considered “members” under some bylaws.
  - Under our current bylaws, “once a member, always a member” is the guiding principle; individuals retain their membership status indefinitely unless they withdraw or are formally removed. Their ability to vote changes based on active or inactive status, but they are still considered members. **The proposed change in Section 4.10 would alter this definition, meaning that inactive members would no longer be recognized as members.**
- **They would no longer receive meeting notices** (such as invitations to AGMs or Special Meetings), because the proposed bylaws require the Society to notify “members.”
- **They could no longer be expelled** for conduct, because expulsion provisions refer only to “members.”

- **There would be no clear way to remove them from membership** unless they voluntarily resign or are automatically removed after two years.

### Why This Is a Concern:

- In situations where an inactive member who has a direct connection with our schools engages in abhorrent behaviour and/or illegal behavior within our schools it is important that the Society has the ability to quickly and efficiently remove the member. If the Society can not do this it would betray the trust that parents and the community as a whole has in the schools, the Society, Christian education and God himself.
- The Society would either be **restricted from notifying inactive members** or **not required to notify inactive members** about AGM's and Special Resolution Meetings. **Many members rely on our annual reminder** to prompt their renewal. Under this change, those reminders may no longer be sent, resulting in fewer reactivations and more permanent disconnections from the Society.

We encourage all voters to read Section 4.10 carefully and consider whether its wording aligns with their own goals for a membership bylaw revision.

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## Board-Initiated Bylaw Proposal

### Acknowledging Concerns and Weighing the Trade-Offs

As a Board, we are deeply grateful for the thoughtful engagement and honest feedback shared by many members of our community. We recognize that the board's proposal may raise concerns for some, especially around who is included or excluded under the revised membership criteria. These are not minor points, and we want to affirm that we have heard you.

We've taken these concerns seriously and spent considerable time reflecting, praying, and discerning together. Ultimately, **we believe that while this proposal does involve trade-offs, it represents the best path forward to protect the mission of the Society, ensure fair and focused governance, and strengthen long-term stability.**

We offer this proposal not as a perfect solution for all, but as a faithful response to the challenges we face and the responsibility we carry to steward the Society well.

## **Clarification on the Exclusion of Current Staff**

This decision is based on a reasonable concern about a conflict of interest. As Society members, individuals vote on matters that directly affect the governance and financial operations of the Society, decisions that include professional development funding, facility improvements, program resources, and school-level staffing support. These are not abstract policies; they shape the working conditions and resources that directly impact current staff members' daily roles and professional growth.

In addition, Society members also vote to elect the Board of Trustees, which oversees leadership, strategic direction, and financial decisions. Allowing current staff to vote in Board elections could create scenarios where votes are cast based not on what best serves the long-term health of the Society, but on what may appear to serve their own professional interests. It's important to remember that "staff" includes not only school-based employees such as teachers, but also Society office staff whose roles are closely tied to Board oversight and administrative decisions. This overlap further underscores the potential for perceived or actual conflict of interest in governance matters.

While we recognize that all members are in some way affected by Society decisions, staff are uniquely positioned in that they are both employees and potential beneficiaries of the decisions made. In many nonprofit and governance contexts, this dual role is considered a conflict of interest, not because staff would act in bad faith, but because even the appearance of personal benefit can compromise the perceived fairness and integrity of the process. That's especially true when decisions influence their compensation, resources, or work environment.

It's also important to clarify that current ECS and ESCE staff are not entirely excluded from membership. Those who are also alumni, current parents, or current grandparents still qualify for membership under those respective categories. In this way, the door remains open for staff who have a relational or family-based connection beyond their professional role.

We know this is a sensitive issue, and we welcome ongoing dialogue. But after prayerful discernment, we believe that this boundary helps maintain transparency, fairness, and trust within our governance practices.

## **Aligning Voting Responsibility with Present Engagement**

We want to acknowledge one of the most significant concerns raised in response to this proposal: under the revised eligibility criteria, some individuals who have been long-time members of the Society will no longer qualify for membership. This includes those who are not current parents, grandparents of ECS students, or Grade 12 alumni residing in the Edmonton area. We recognize that this change affects people who have faithfully supported Edmonton Christian Schools for many years, through prayer, service, financial contributions, and passionate commitment to Christ-centred education.

This is not a decision we take lightly.

These individuals remain valued and deeply appreciated members of our broader school community. Their involvement continues to matter, and their support still plays a vital role in sustaining our mission. However, as we considered how to strengthen the integrity of our governance, we had to weigh a difficult but necessary question: *Who should have the responsibility of voting on matters that shape the future direction of the Society?*

Our goal is to ensure that those who cast votes at our Annual General Meetings and Special Resolution Meetings are people who are most directly engaged in the day-to-day life and mission of the schools, those who are affected by the outcomes of Society decisions and who remain closely connected to our present context.

This means that while some members may lose voting privileges under the proposed changes, they are not losing their place in our community. They are still welcome to:

- Attend public Society meetings,
- Participate in school events and volunteer opportunities,
- Contribute financially and spiritually to the work of ECS, and
- Stay connected as supporters and ambassadors of our mission.

This is one of the clearest trade-offs in the proposed bylaw changes. It reflects our desire to create a governance model that is deeply rooted in present involvement while still honouring the legacy of those who have come before. We are grateful for the role every supporter has played in the story of Edmonton Christian Schools, and we hope you will continue to walk alongside us as that story unfold



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## The Purpose Behind a Bylaw Update

The following section outlines the Board of Trustees' perspective on why a bylaw update is needed and what principles have guided our approach.

These changes are not just administrative, they come from a place of prayer, discernment, and deep care for the future of Edmonton Christian Schools. As we considered the challenges and opportunities ahead, we sought to develop a proposal that would strengthen our foundation, promote unity, and ensure that our governance remains rooted in meaningful engagement with the mission of the Society.

### **Why a Bylaw Update is Needed**

Our current bylaw defines eligible members broadly, allowing anyone who supports Christian education to join. While this has fostered openness, it has also led to concerns about how we ensure our voting members are meaningfully invested in the life and mission of our school.

### **A Future-Focused Perspective**

As we review our bylaws, we must consider what will serve our Society, not just at this moment but in the years ahead. We want a bylaw that promotes stability, protects our mission, and encourages collaboration, regardless of who holds leadership or how opinions may differ.

### **A Call for Unity Across Perspectives**

We recognize that broken trust can create barriers, but through the grace of Christ, we believe healing is possible. Our prayer is that God will lead us in restoring relationships, listening with humility, and working toward unity. Yet, for any bylaw to serve our community well, it must have the support of diverse perspectives within our membership. We want to avoid a bylaw that serves one group at the expense of another. This makes the task challenging but also essential. It may be that before we can reach a final version, we need time to rebuild relationships and create space for healing. The relational work is as important as the governance work.

## Appendix D: Registration and Proxy Voting

To attend the AGM or assign your vote to someone else, please use our online registration form: <https://forms.gle/WG8G5WYtxGe9aGr49>

Or scan the QR code below:



If you are unable to attend, you may authorize another active member to vote on your behalf by submitting a proxy form online. Proxies must be assigned to someone who is registered to attend and will be present at the meeting.

**Attendance registration** (in person or virtual) and **Proxy authorization** must be submitted by end of day on **May 27**.

### Important Reminders for the AGM

- **No changes will be accepted at the meeting.** All registrations, proxy authorizations, and membership updates must be finalized in advance. If you've authorized someone to vote on your behalf, that assignment cannot be changed or reassigned at the door.
- **ID is required at the check-in table for all in-person attendees.**
- **Virtual (Zoom) attendees will be required to submit their name with their vote** so we can verify membership and ensure no duplicate votes are counted.
- Only verified, active members will receive a Zoom link if they register to attend online.
- You may register to attend either by Zoom, **or** in person, **or** by assigning a proxy—not more than one.
- For those attending in person, doors open at 5:30 PM. Please plan to arrive early to allow time for check-in before the meeting begins.