*April 26, 2016 Public Meeting of the Board* **3.2B(ii)**

April 20, 2016

To: The Board of Trustees

From: Debbie Engel

Trustee

**Re: Federal Government Funding for First Nations Metis and Inuit Graduation Coaches**

Edmonton Catholic Schools’ Graduation Coach Program was first developed in 2009 when the graduation rate of First Nations, Metis and Inuit students in Alberta was well below the general Alberta population graduation rate. Since its implementation, the program has significantly increased the three year graduation rate of FNMI students to an average of 61.2% in our four participating high schools.

Our incredibly successful program has been recognized with two very distinguished awards. We were awarded the American National Drop-Out Prevention Center’s Crystal Star Award, the first time that this has been presented outside of the United States. We also received the Alberta School Board’s Association prestigious Premier’s Award for Innovation and Excellence presented in November of 2015.

Today, in response to the Federal Government’s Call to Action, Edmonton Catholic Schools would like to respond by expanding the model to include one more high school along with a number of our elementary and junior high schools.

The expansion model includes:

* The implementation of an Indigenous Literacy Intervention Program matching struggling readers with trained literacy tutors from post-secondary and community volunteers using recognized reading strategies to increase reading levels by a minimum of one grade level in the first year of implementation for FNMI students in grades 1, 6 and 9
* To increase the graduation coach model to 15 more schools, this includes 14 new elementary and junior high schools that currently have greater than 30 FNMI enrolled students; 1 new high school which has more than 40 FNMI enrolled students

**Total additional staff required 28**

* 19 graduation coaches (as some schools require 1.5 FTE)
* 9 additional staff to coordinate literacy interventions

**Requested Funding $2,000,000**

The funding request of $2,000,000 would supplement the resources the District has invested in the program.

**Resolution**

That the Administration submits a proposal requesting that the Federal Government fund $2M to expand and continue with Edmonton Catholic Schools’ Graduation Coach Model, a model that is unique to schools in Alberta.