

More About the Costs of Funding Catholic Separate Schools

- ◆ Coterminous school boards are public and separate school boards with exactly the same boundaries and the same language. Therefore, any differences in costs or funding for coterminous school boards cannot be attributed to the separate school board being more remote or with greater geographical barriers.
- ◆ We studied thirty-two coterminous English school boards (16 public; 16 separate).
- ◆ The costs for trustees, directors and supervisors, and transportation per student for all 32 boards from 2012-2015 were compared. The difference between the cost per student in the separate school board with its coterminous public school board was calculated. It was then multiplied by the number of students in the separate school board.
- ◆ The result: **a potential saving of about 40 million a year just for trustees, directors and supervisors, and transportation if the costs of these 16 separate school board were the same as their coterminous public boards.**¹ And there are 29 English separate school boards.
- ◆ This is an underestimate as, especially in smaller, more remote boards, the combined board would have even greater savings because, for example, students would not have to be bused as far, or possibly even at all, to attend public schools. The closest schools would all be public.
- ◆ The Catholic Boards in these coterminous schools received every year, from 2012-2015, about **\$1,400 dollars more per student in provincial funding for operating and capital expenditures than the corresponding coterminous public boards.**²
- ◆ There would also be savings because under-utilized separate schools near under-utilized public schools could be combined to provide fully utilized schools which could offer greater resources to all its students. In the Near North DSB, there is an under-utilized (less than 40%) public elementary school almost across the road from an under-utilized (less than 60%) separate elementary school.³
- ◆ In general, **about 72%** of the total operating revenues for separate schools for 2011-12 to 2014-15 came from provincial funding. Only about **62%** of the total operating revenues for public schools came from provincial funding.⁴
- ◆ About **7.5%** of total operating revenues for separate schools came from residential property taxes of separate school supporters (about **17%** of operating revenues for public schools came from residential property taxes).⁵
- ◆ Both systems receive about 15% of their operating revenues from business property taxes.⁶ Businesses cannot direct their taxes; if a small business is wholly owned by atheists or Baptists, their business property taxes are still assigned on a per student basis to separate and public schools in their area.

¹ Freedom of Information (FOI) Request EDU 160074, January 2017.

² Freedom of Information (FOI) Request EDU 160072, December 2017.

³ www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/ontariobudgets/2014/papers_all.pdf.

⁴ Freedom of Information Request EDU-160070, February 2017,

⁵ Freedom of Information Request EDU-160070, February 2017.

⁶ Freedom of Information Request EDU-160070, February 2017.