

STATEMENT – “LEAVE NOT GRANTED” VERSION

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February 25, 2021

Today, the Supreme Court of Canada dismissed Good Spirit (Public) School Division’s application for leave to appeal the Theodore case to the Supreme Court of Canada.

This decision confirms the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal’s unanimous decision that overturned the 2017 ruling that sought to limit public funding for students who choose to attend Catholic schools in Saskatchewan but lack a Catholic baptismal certificate.

We are relieved and reassured by this decision, and we believe it can be considered a victory for both religious and parental rights and freedoms. Even though the Government of Saskatchewan assured us they would do whatever is necessary to protect your choice for your child’s education, this decision definitively confirms what we have said and believed all along: parents know what is best for their children and they should be able to choose Catholic, faith-based education if that is what they want—no matter their reasons, faith backgrounds or traditions.

We are grateful to the parents and guardians of our students for entrusting us with the education of their children. In spite of this period of uncertainty, they have made their choice and we are humbled and honoured that so many continue to choose Catholic education for their children and families.

We are also grateful to the many donors who generously funded the costs of this appeal. Because of them, all eight Catholic boards in the province were able to keep education funds in the classroom and not divert them to cover costly courtroom expenses.

A significant amount of time and money has been spent on this court case, and we are pleased that we can all refocus our energy and resources on our students and families to build upon the exemplary model of education we have in this province.

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