WINDSOR-ESSEX CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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MEDIA RELEASE

The Most Energy Efficient School In Ontario!

St. Christopher Catholic Elementary School Receives National Environmental Award!

The recently completed major addition and renovations to **St. Christopher Catholic Elementary School** has resulted in a model of environmental friendliness and energy efficiency in building design. As a result, this construction project has been awarded a Commercial Building Incentive Program (CBIP) grant award from Natural Resources Canada for being **the most energy efficient elementary or secondary school in Ontario and the fifth most energy efficient in Canada.**

This innovative design is considered to be "Green Architecture". "Green Architecture" is an evolutionary re-evaluation of construction and design practices by the architectural, building and environmental communities. Its aim is to produce buildings, which have lower energy demands, boost employee morale and productivity and are less harmful to the environment. These concerns are not only examined in the construction process but the entire "life span" of the building. From the initial raw material harvesting and building material manufacturing to the final demolition and disposal of the building itself, a very environmentally responsible project is established.

Many energy efficient concepts were incorporated into the design of this "almost new" Central-South Windsor school, some of which include:

- 5,000 square foot "green roof" on two separate levels to reflect cooling into the environment.
- Utilizing sun shades reducing heat gain and glare into the building.
- Use of in-floor heating and radiant cooling system for maximized comfort and efficiency.
- Use of finishing materials and adhesives with a minimal environmental impact
- Reduction of electrical demand by introducing staged or varying intensity lighting in classrooms. When daylight levels are sufficient, lights in classrooms will automatically "de-energize" to lower settings, utilizing occupancy sensors in auditorium, washrooms and service areas to further reduce energy consumption
- Use of natural gas powered mechanical equipment instead of electrical equipment to reduce energy costs
- Independent ventilation system with heat recovery devices to reduce energy consumption and provide better indoor air quality
- Water conservation through the use of low flow fixtures and waterless urinals.
- High insulation levels in walls and roofs without thermal conductivity components through construction.
- Concentrated use of materials that can be re-cycled once building is demolished minimizing landfills requirements

As a result of incorporating many energy efficient design features, the school and the Catholic School Board have been awarded a Natural Resources Canada Award through the *Commercial Building Incentive Program*. The unique award was presented tonight at the regular meeting of the Board.

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