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# MEDIA RELEASE

January 9, 2017

## Both Light of Christ and the Living Sky School Divisions Announce Support for Locally Elected School Boards

The provincial government is currently conducting a review of public education governance. A recommended outcome of this review may be the reduction, through school division amalgamations, of locally elected school boards. The review may also recommend that locally elected school boards be eliminated altogether, and that they be replaced by appointed boards. In response, the Light of Christ and Living Sky School Divisions have agreed to issue a joint statement on the importance of locally elected school boards. Specifically, both school divisions wish to communicate the following:

- There is a strong connection between effective Boards of Education, whose work is informed by local community voices, and the improvement of student achievement;
- Boards of education are committed to working with the government to ensure the best outcomes for students, and boards want to ensure the focus in education stays steadfast on continuing the progress with the Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP);
- Boards of education in Saskatchewan know that the fiscal challenges in the province are shared by all of us. We are committed to continuing to find efficiencies;
- Boards of education are part of the solution and believe that current fiscal challenges cannot be solved by amalgamations;
- Locally elected boards are the voice of the people and provide a connection and accountability with the communities they serve; and
- Decisions are best made at the grassroots level and school boards have credibility and relationships with their communities.

Finally, the Light of Christ and Living Sky School Divisions express support for the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) “Education Belongs to Community” campaign, which states:

“For more than 100 years, the work of the SSBA and its member boards has remained deeply rooted in the belief that every child in Saskatchewan, regardless of where they live or their personal circumstances, must have the resources and supports they need to achieve and succeed. *Research shows that Local Boards Matter.*”

Glen Gantefoer, **Board Chair**  
Light of Christ Catholic School Division

Ronna Pethick, **Board Chair**  
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