

CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS KAMLOOPS DIOCESE



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

DATE: January 14th, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

A Pillar of Catholic Education in Williams Lake to Close its Doors

Sacred Heart Catholic School, a long-established independent school in Williams Lake, is set to close its doors when the school year finishes in June. This announcement was made through the Superintendent's Office of the Catholic Independent Schools of the Kamloops Diocese on January 14, 2025.

"It is with a heavy heart that we make this announcement," said Christopher Yuen, the Superintendent for Catholic Independent Schools of the Kamloops Diocese. "The school has faced significant enrolment pressures these past few years that has led to a recurring operating deficit that the school can no longer sustain."

"We have stepped up efforts to economize since 2020," adds Yuen, "to reduce the operating deficit but the school's enrolment has not recovered to pre-COVID levels. This drop in students has meant that the school has run a recurring operating deficit since then."

"We have now reached the stage where we will exhaust our accumulated school savings at the end of this current school year, which has led to this decision. The deficits were just too large for the school or local parish to carry," says Yuen.

Communications have been sent out to staff as well as families with children attending the school informing them of this decision and of a town hall meeting that has been organized for the evening of January 15th to allow for families to ask any questions they have about the school's closure.

"It is very much business as usual for the school," notes Yuen. "There will be no change to the school's operation for the remainder of this school year. Our students will continue to be taught by the same teachers, take part in all of the programs at the school until the school terms ends in June."

We have much to be proud of. Sacred Heart Catholic School has provided quality Catholic education for generations of Williams Lake families who have gone on to be productive members of the community and leaders in our church. It is a wonderful legacy for which we can all be grateful.

The Catholic Independent Schools of the Kamloops Diocese operates 6 schools in the Diocese of Kamloops in Quesnel, Williams Lake, Vernon and Kamloops areas. It includes an extensive online presence through ASCEND Online through distributed learning offering that provides courses to students across the province.

For media inquiries, please contact Mr. Chris Yuen, Superintendent of the Catholic Independent Schools of the Kamloops Diocese at 250-376-3351 or email to superintendent@ciskd.ca.