

To All ECSSA Members

You are a member of ECSSA, a group of hardworking support staff for Edmonton Catholic Schools. Over 900 strong, you are united together with your co-workers to strive for better working conditions and fair compensation. To help you in this task, you, the members of ECSSA voted to be represented by CEP, one of the largest (120,000 members across Canada) and most respected unions in our country.

Well respected unions do lots of organizing drives, trying to recruit more members from working people who do not belong to a union. They do this so that they can hopefully improve working condition, wages and benefits for working people. Statistics Canada information shows that unionized workers earn, on average, 33% more than those who do not belong to a union and whereas all unionized workers have benefits and pension plans, many, many without unions have no benefits or pension plans.

There is an honorable understanding amongst almost all unions. If a union wishes to organize new members, they focus their efforts on non-unionized workers. If a union chooses to try to "steal" members from another union – it is called a raid.

Lately another union has begun a raid of ECSSA. They are circulating a petition which would enable them to take over your ECSSA. All we are asking of you at this point is **please do not sign the petition** until you have all the facts. At the general meeting on Tuesday, May 29th at 5:00 at St. Joseph High School, you will be presented with all the information you need and we can answer all of your questions. At this point in time there are a lot of rumors and misinformation being passed around. We would like to ensure that our members are given the opportunity to make an informed choice, based on facts not rumors.

We also understand that some of our members are being asked to distribute information from this other union in the workplace. We must advise you, for you own protection, that engaging in these types of activities during working hours is not allowed by employers, or under the legislation of the Alberta Labour Relations Board.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 29th.

Your Executive (Denise White, Danny Burrell, Cheryl Andrews, Janice Bowman, Veronica Slavik