

# Media Release

## Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA) Announces New Executive Director

After a thorough and extensive search through Leader's International, the ACSTA Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Eugenia Pagnotta-Kowalczyk as the association's new Executive Director.

ACSTA President Serena Shaw states:

"I am extremely pleased to announce Dr. Eugenia Kowalczyk as the new Executive Director of ACSTA effective September 1, 2020. She has served as the Director of Advocacy for the past two years with the Association, and she has been a gift to publicly funded Catholic education. The Catholic community is blessed to have Dr. Kowalczyk in this role; her vocation to Catholic Education is unwavering, and the future is very bright at ACSTA."



Dr. Kowalczyk holds a Bachelor of Education Degree specializing in Music and English and a Masters' of Education Degree of Distinction with a focus on leadership and curriculum. In 2018 Dr. Kowalczyk completed her Doctorate of Philosophy. Her dissertation entitled: *Educational Leadership Exploring Overlapping Consensus of Catholic Identity Through Narrative Inquiry*, asserts Dr. Kowalczyk as an expert in educational leadership and Catholic identity. Dr. Kowalczyk has presented her research at both the national and international level.

Dr. Kowalczyk brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the Executive Director role through her extensive 32-year career with Edmonton Catholic School Division, as a sessional instruction with St. Joseph College, Field Experience Associate with the University of Alberta, and her most recent role as Director of Advocacy for ACSTA.

Serving the Parish of Santa Maria Goretti in Music Ministry, Baptism preparation, and Parish Council, along with organizations such as Ronald MacDonald House Meals that Heal and Catholic Social Services Sign of Hope Campaign, Dr. Kowalczyk's contributions to the community are extensive.

Dr. Kowalczyk shares:

"My commitment to serving the mission of ACSTA remains steadfast. My priorities include facilitating strong unified relationships among the membership, stakeholders, and government. By building a team of champions ready and committed to renewed excellence, publicly funded Catholic education will continue to honour the past, celebrate the present, and shape the future."

ACSTA Board of Directors warmly welcomes Dr. Kowalczyk and is excited for what the future holds under her leadership.