



**June 11, 2025**

**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

We are writing to inform you of a development in the ongoing provincial negotiations between the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) and the Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA), which represents school boards across Alberta.

The ATA has concluded a province-wide strike vote, with approximately 95% of participating teachers voting in favour of strike action. While this does not mean a strike will happen immediately, it does mean that the ATA is now in a legal position to initiate job action, including a full strike, rotating strikes, or "work-to-rule" measures, after providing 72 hours notice.

### **What This Means for Our Schools**

At this time, STAR Catholic schools remain open and will continue to operate as usual, with no disruption to teaching and learning. We have not received any strike notice from the ATA. However, should a 72-hour notice be issued, it is highly probable that schools would be closed for the duration of the strike or affected by other forms of job action.

We understand that this situation may cause concern and uncertainty for families. Please know that we are committed to providing timely, accurate updates as new information becomes available.

### **Respecting the Bargaining Process**

STAR Catholic Schools deeply values the vital role our teachers play in shaping our students' lives and faith-filled education. We also respect the collective bargaining process. While we remain hopeful that a fair agreement can be reached without disruption to student learning, our foremost priority continues to be the well-being of our students and staff.

## **Who is Responsible for Bargaining?**

The current negotiations are taking place at the **provincial level between the ATA and TEBA**. These discussions address key matters such as salaries and benefits, which are not decided at the individual school division level. Local bargaining can only begin once the central (provincial) agreement has been finalized.

We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we navigate this complex situation together.

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Kardynal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Laurie Kardynal, Superintendent/CEO**

**St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Schools**