



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STUDENT FORUM TO PROVIDE INPUT TO ANNUAL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN FOR ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DSB

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board will review its Annual Accessibility Plan, as required by the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2005)*. The purpose of the act is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities; and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers. Each school board in the province must prepare an Annual Accessibility Plan, in consultation with disabled persons.

The guest speaker this year will be Dan Edwards, a former student of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board, who sustained a spinal cord injury several years ago.

As part of the review, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board will host a *Student Forum*, at which students will be invited to provide information on various aspects of accessibility within their school settings. They will be asked to provide recommendations, which will help to make the Board more accessible to all students.

Student input in the design and implementation of our annual plan is vital,” says Steve DeGurse, Principal of St. John Fisher Catholic School in Forest and Chair of the Working Group for the Annual Accessibility Plan. “We welcome these young people to our focus session.”

“Each year, consultation is a key step as we develop our annual accessibility plan,” says Dan Parr, Director of Education. “We look forward to the valuable input our students will provide.”

Information brought forward at the *Student Forum* will be used to develop the next steps for the 2014 – 2015 accessibility plan.

The Student Forum will be held at 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 in the Boardroom at the Catholic Education Centre, 420 Creek Street, Wallaceburg. Members of the media are welcome.