



**BUILDING TOMORROW
TOGETHER**



**WINDSOR-ESSEX CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**MEDIA RELEASE
June 21, 2010**

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOLS PROGRAM MAKES SPACE MORE AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE

In an effort to make school space more affordable and accessible for use by Not-For-Profit groups outside of regular school hours, the Ministry of Education provides funding to school boards through the Community Use of Schools Program. Part of that funding is used to purchase software and technology that promotes the effectiveness of the CUS program. One such practice is to use an on-line application system which allows community groups the ability to view and apply for available after-hours space in schools on-line. The Ministry expects that as of September 2010, boards will provide information on their web-sites as part of the details given for CUS:

1. Outreach Coordinator contact information;
2. A breakdown of each type of available space within each school and the hourly cost of renting said space;
3. The hours during the week when space is potentially available;
4. Insurance requirements.

In order to support boards to meet these “minimum” expectations, the Ministry of Education has provided financial assistance in order to purchase or upgrade software to provide the public the ability to view and apply on-line. School boards were eligible for \$10,000 each if they chose to work alone or \$15,000 if a school board worked with their coterminous board to better align service delivery to the end user via their web-sites. Administration is pleased to advise that the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board and the Greater Essex County District School Board worked together to purchase a system called eBase, to support online applications. The Outreach Coordinators and Facilities staffs from both Boards are working on fulfilling the Ministry’s expectations for September.

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