



**PRESS RELEASE
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CHAIRMAN STEPS DOWN AFTER FOURTEEN YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

Rosemère, May 9, 2012 – Steve Bletas, Chairman of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) announced his resignation tonight during a special meeting of the Council of Commissioners.

Mr. Bletas cited health issues as the primary reason for leaving the position he has successfully been elected to and held since 1998 in his 14-years as Chairman of SWLSB.

Mr. Bletas was instrumental in board development, in negotiations for land grants and other agreements with municipal authorities and provincial bureaucrats. He was also instrumental in acquiring funding for new schools in Rawdon, Blainville and Repentigny as well as renovation grants for schools in Chomedey (John F. Kennedy Elementary) and Duvernay (Jules Verne Elementary).

One of the founding members of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation, Mr. Bletas mentions with pride the very successful fundraisers benefitting students and schools of the SWLSB territory. He has been a hands-on Chairman developing important and close ties with students, parents and municipal and provincial politicians over the last 14-years. "Sir Wilfrid Laurier has gone in a lot of positive directions under his Chairmanship," said Vice-Chairman Carolyn Curiale.

"It is a difficult day for me, I have worked hard for SWLSB and my heart remains with the Board today and always. I was elected by the population and I will remain on the Council of Commissioners until the next elections," concluded Bletas. "I would like to thank the SWL 'family' for their dedication and excellence, and I look forward to serving the Board and my constituents in this capacity."

The Council of Commissioners will proceed with the replacement of the vacancy of the office of Chairman within the next 30 days. The Vice-Chairman, Carolyn Curiale will assume the functions and powers of the Chairman of the Council of Commissioners until then.

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board offers educational services to more than 14,400 students in 38 schools and 5 Adult Education and Vocational Training centres and has a workforce of nearly 2,000 employees.

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