



Lord Selkirk School Division News Release Budget 2008-2009

At its Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday March 4, 2008, the Board of Trustees of the Lord Selkirk School Division approved a 2008-2009 school year Operating Fund Budget totalling \$44,635,944 and a Capital Fund Budget totalling \$400,477. The Budget that was approved took advantage of the Government's Tax Incentive Grant (TIG) in the amount of \$477,246 that assisted the Division in maintaining the 2008 special levy mill rate at the 2007 level. Therefore, there will be a **zero percent tax increase** for the Lord Selkirk School Division rate payer and the **mill rate for 2008 will remain at the current 21.9**.

The Board began the budget process with a Special Budget Forum held November 27, 2007, to discuss the issues that divisional staff and the public felt were important for the Board to address during their budget deliberations.

Highlights of Budget 2008-2009 include:

- Teaching positions are increased by 5.5 FTE positions due to changes in enrolment patterns, implementation of grade 11 and 12 Physical Education/ Health Education credits, and .5 Lead Teacher for Music and the Performing Arts.
- 3.0 FTE additional Educational Assistant positions to address the current needs in the Division.
- 1.25 FTE Bus Assistant positions.
- Continued support to upgrade school facilities and parking lots.
- Expanded support for TALL technology equipment into grades 7 & 8.
- Continued support for upgrading of wide area network.
- Support to cover the following one-time expenditures:
 - LSRCS Theatre seating/carpeting/stage lighting
 - Lockport School vocational equipment upgrade
 - Ecole Selkirk Jr. High locker replacement
 - Ecole Selkirk Jr. High/Ecole Bonaventure canopy/storage upgrade
 - Board Office tower replacement.

In addition, the Board approved the transfer of \$300,000 to the Capital Reserve – Buses account to cover additional bus requirements.