



SEVEN OAKS
SCHOOL DIVISION
community begins here

Seven Oaks Trustee Budget for Tax Freeze and Enrolment Increase

Seven Oaks School Division taxpayers will see a freeze in school taxes next year thanks to its successful lobbying efforts with the provincial government. The 2010-2011 budget of \$102,132,195 an increase of 10.29% is driven by an enrolment increase of 660 students from the last budget.

The division was able to pass its 2010-2011 budget at its March 8th meeting by accepting a tax incentive grant (TIG) of \$2,057,167. Board Chair Claudia Sarbit acknowledged the efforts of the new Minister of Education, “The new minister Nancy Allan listened to our board and the four thousand community members who signed our petition and responded.”

Seven Oaks will reduce its mill rate from 29.3 mills to 17.3 mills but will still have a high mill rate due to its lack of a commercial tax base. “We will continue to push for fairness” said Sarbit, “Our children and taxpayers deserve it.”

Seven Oaks enrolment increased by 440 students this year, 340 more than budgeted. A similar increase is expected next year.

The 2010-2011 budget provides for 33 more teachers and 33 more paraprofessionals to respond to growing enrolment.

Seven Oaks 2009-2010 enrolment was 9,644. For 2010-2011 it is projected to be over 10,000. The division has submitted notices of intent for new schools in Amber Trails and Riverbend. New school construction is 100% funded by the Province of Manitoba. The new schools have yet to be approved.

Although the Division effectively froze its taxation, individual homeowners may see an increase in school taxes as a result of the dramatic changes that have occurred in this reassessment year. There are two main shifts that have affected Seven Oaks School Division:

1. Residential assessments have increased significantly more than commercial assessments. This means that residential properties will pay a greater share of taxes than commercial properties.
2. Assessment values for properties in the City of Winnipeg have increased significantly more than properties in either the Rural Municipalities of St. Andrews or West St. Paul, so properties in the City of Winnipeg will pay a greater share of taxes.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Brian O’Leary, Superintendent or Mr. Wayne Shimizu, Secretary-Treasurer at 586-8061.