

A portrait of Joan Carr, a woman with short brown hair, smiling, wearing a black jacket and a black and white beaded necklace. The portrait is set against a dark background and is partially framed by a gold decorative border on the left side.

JOAN CARR

“TO ACT JUSTLY,
TO LOVE FAITHFULLY
AND TO WALK HUMBLY
WITH OUR GOD.”

Micah 6:8



Joan Carr served the families and staff of Edmonton Catholic Schools for over 40 years, the last 14 of those as Superintendent, until her passing in February 2020. She was a visionary leader, a passionate advocate for Catholic education, and grounded in the love of Jesus.

Joan was born on October 11, 1952, in Lamont, Alberta, 70 kilometres east of Edmonton. In her 45 years with the school division, Joan served as a Kindergarten Teacher, Principal, Consultant for Special Education Services, and Human Resources Administrator before being appointed Superintendent in 2006. Through the years, Joan was recognized and celebrated locally, provincially, and nationally for her exceptional leadership, and was named Canadian Superintendent of the Year in 2016. By 2019, she was overseeing more than 4,200 staff and 44,000 students in 95 schools.

Pioneering early learning programs, helping new Canadians enter the school division, and improving Indigenous learning opportunities were hallmarks of her career. Joan established the Council of Elders at Edmonton Catholic Schools and championed culture-based education for Indigenous families. She also attended the Ben Calf Robe Traditional Pow Wow each year and was honoured with her Cree spirit name, *Asiniy Iskwew*, meaning “Stone Woman.”

Joan was committed to serving the community; she chaired the Sign of Hope Campaign for Catholic Social Services in 2007 and served on the Board of Directors of the Friars’ Ball fundraiser. She also served on the Mayor’s Task Force to End Poverty, the Junior Achievement of Northern Alberta’s Board of Directors, and the TELUS World of Science Foundation. At St. Joseph’s Basilica, she served as a Eucharistic minister.

Throughout decades of working for the school division, Joan’s primary focus remained the well-being of students, always responding generously and creatively to fulfilling their varied needs and challenges. Her legacy was founded on her love of Christ, the Church, and her desire to help others. Joan was a true champion of Catholic education.