



DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Briefing Notes

Date: September 11, 2008

Topic: Singing of National Anthem in TCDSB Schools

Some schools use recordings of O Canada played over the public address system during opening exercises where students and staff are expected to sing along, while other schools prefer to sing our national anthem with no music.

- The Education Act requires that every board shall ensure that opening or closing exercises are held in each school and that these exercises must include the singing of *O Canada*.
- TCDSB Policy S.S.02 "Safe Schools: Opening or Closing Exercises" states:
 - Reg. 8 Prior to the commencement of classes in September, the principal shall communicate to all classroom teachers in writing the local expectations congruent with the Policy regarding the scheduling of Opening Exercises.*
 - Reg. 9 The policy applies to all elementary and secondary schools under the jurisdiction of the TCDSB".*
- Some schools play recordings of *O Canada* over the public address system during opening exercises. There are a number of CD's available commercially which have recordings of *O Canada* in various arrangements and musical styles.
- Each fall the Music Department and music staff reviews the lyrics and melody of *O Canada* with students.
- In order to support the respectful singing of *O Canada*, the TCDSB will review the resources and supports available to schools. This will include the development of posters with the lyrics which can be displayed in every classroom, as well as recordings of *O Canada* to use on their public address systems to facilitate student participation.
- The TCDSB continues to be committed to ensuring that the national anthem is sung respectfully during opening and closing exercises and other school events.