



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Communications

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#### TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2009-2010

##### Wards

1. Joseph Martino	416-512-3401
2. Ann Andrachuk, Vice-Chair	416-512-3402
3. Sal Piccininni	416-512-3403
4. Mary Cocogna	416-512-3404
5. Maria Rizzo	416-512-3405
6. Rob Davis	416-512-3406
7. John Del Grande	416-512-3407
8. Mary Ann Robillard	416-512-3408
9. Catherine LeBlanc-Miller	416-512-3409
10. Barbara Poplawski	416-512-3410
11. Angela Kennedy, Chair	416-512-3411
12. Paul John Crawford, Honorary Treasurer	416-512-3412
Connor Rollit, Student Trustee	416-512-3413

## TCDSB CONGRATULATES: “NEWCOMER CHAMPION AWARD” RECIPIENT

The Toronto Catholic District School Board congratulates Michel Bencini, head of the Board’s Orientation Centre. Mr. Bencini is a recipient of a Newcomer Champion Award, which was presented by the Honourable Eric Hoskins, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration at a ceremony on June 25<sup>th</sup> at the Westin Prince Hotel.

A newcomer champion is an individual who exemplifies excellence or achievement in establishing welcoming communities in Ontario for newcomers and/or fostering understanding and sharing of Ontario’s many cultures.

“Mr. Bencini and his staff provide access to support services, counselling and assistance with registration. Coupled with his own experience as an immigrant, Mr. Bencini provides a welcoming and reassuring environment” says Ann Perron, TCDSB Director of Education. “We strive to be inclusive in our curriculum and our school activities. His dedication and commitment over the past 20 years has allowed countless newcomers and school communities to benefit from and contribute to that inclusiveness”.

“Our Board welcomes families from a wide variety of races, cultures and ethnicities. It is extremely important for newcomers that their transition to the Catholic school system begin in a welcoming atmosphere, with appropriate academic guidance and orientation to begin their new life in Canada”, says TCDSB Board Chair, Angela Kennedy. “Mr. Bencini sets the stage for the success of the integration of our new families into our educational system. Through his encouragement, they begin to develop an appreciation and support for our publicly-funded Catholic schools. It is that support that contributes to students reaching their full potential”.

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*The Toronto Catholic District School Board educates more than 93,000 students from diverse cultures and language backgrounds in its 201 Catholic elementary and secondary schools and serves approximately 475,000 Catholic school supporters across the City of Toronto.*