

## **International Women's Day Message from the Director of Education and Chair of the Board**

The Toronto Catholic District School Board approved a motion last year to proclaim March 8<sup>th</sup> each year as International Women's Day. This global celebration, focusing on equity and social justice, reflects our own vision that equity, diversity, accessibility and inclusivity are integral to the Catholic community.

In preparation for March 8<sup>th</sup>, we encourage schools to raise awareness and plan educational experiences for students that:

- promote inclusivity with a particular focus on the worth and dignity of women
- highlight the needs and concerns of women on a local, regional, national, and global arena
- applaud women's achievements
- highlight gender inequalities, violence and other issues facing women

We would love to hear about your plans for International Women's day. Please share your activities, community engagement strategies and resources with the communications department at [commdept@tcdsb.org](mailto:commdept@tcdsb.org).

Sincerely,

Bruce Rodrigues  
Director of Education

Ann Andrachuk  
Chair of the Board

# **Toronto Catholic District School Board Proclamation For International Women's Day**

WHEREAS Globally, International Women's Day has been observed since the early 1900's with an original focus toward equality and universal suffrage: provisions have been made for enjoying human rights with no discrimination for gender; literature has been published to alert women of their rights; violence against women is recognized as a violation of women's rights; and programs and policies more frequently incorporate gender perspectives into programs and policies.

WHEREAS It is now an official holiday in many countries around the world.

WHEREAS The focus of the celebrations around the world ranges from celebrations of respect, appreciation and love towards women to a celebration of women's economic, political and social achievements.

WHEREAS On International Women's Day, the struggles of women worldwide are put on the global agenda and are examined in a hopeful way.

WHEREAS March 8<sup>th</sup> marks International Women's Day and provides an opportunity for schools to pay tribute, celebrate and recognize women's achievements.

THEREFORE the Toronto Catholic District School Board declares March 8<sup>th</sup> as International Women's Day across the Board.