

**To All Members of the TCDSB Community:**

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed December 10th as Human Rights Day in 1950, to bring to the attention ‘of the peoples of the world’ the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.

Similarly, in this our year of hope, we are all challenged to do whatever we can to bring this message of hope to our brothers and sisters – not only in our places of learning and our places of work – but in our homes, our communities and around the world.

The UN declaration speaks to “the recognition of interdependence between democracy, development and human rights”. It prepared the way for future cooperation by international organizations and national agencies in the promotion of all human rights, including the right to development. It is in this spirit that the mission and vision of the Toronto Catholic District School Board reminds us that we are an inclusive learning community, with a vision to transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action. The fundamental tenets of our Catholic faith compels us to respect the rights and dignity of all persons.

We are blessed to live in a country where human rights are entrenched into our constitution, and to be part of the Catholic family where our fundamental values embrace equity, justice and respect for all. However, there are always opportunities to strengthen our resolve to make the world a better place for everyone.

On December 10th, let’s take a moment to pray for those whose basic human rights are being violated, and to do what we can to ensure that human rights are upheld in our communities.

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Director of Education

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Chair of the Board