



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

The Toronto Catholic District School Board once again proclaims March 8th as International Women's Day, a global celebration, focusing on equity and social justice, which reflects our own vision that equity, diversity, accessibility and inclusivity are integral to the Catholic community.

Pope Francis often speaks out about the "fundamental importance" of women in the Roman Catholic Church, stressing that they have a special role in spreading the faith, and reminding us that they were the "first witnesses" of the resurrection of Jesus.

In preparation for this year's celebration of International Women's Day, we encourage schools to raise awareness and to 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

If you have any special events or initiatives planned in this regard, please share the information with our communications department at commdept@tcdsb.org.

To all our female students and staff, we extend our best wishes for a very happy Women's Day.

Best regards

Angela Gauthier
Director of Education

Jo-Ann Davis
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 8th 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 8th as International Women's Day across the Board.