



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Hello everyone,

Everyone in the Toronto Catholic District School Board community is invited to join in Canada's 150th birthday celebration throughout 2017. TCDSB officially launches our Canada 150 celebrations on Flag Day, February 15th, a day dedicated to pride in our Canadian flag—the maple leaf.

The 150th anniversaries of our nation and our province, coincide with our ongoing focus on our Pastoral Plan: "Together With One Voice: family, parish and school" which honours the three partners who have created the solid foundation on which Catholic education has been built. Catholic schools have been a rich and vibrant part of Canada's and Ontario's heritage since before confederation. JOIN US as we recognize our Boards unique place in Canadian history during this sesquicentennial year.

A website has been created for the many exciting events and initiatives that are already underway around the board: <https://www.tcdsb.org/Canada150>

We'd like to call your attention specifically to the following:

O'Canada Music Video Contest: Taking pride in our country, and our anthem, and celebrating the talents of our students, all are invited to submit a videotape of their choir (or group of students) singing O'Canada. This can be done accapella or with musical accompaniment, in English, in French, or in both official languages. In keeping with the Canada150 theme of celebrating our diversity, students are encouraged to include in the video backgrounds, props, artwork and clothing that honours their cultural heritage. The best submissions will be compiled into a professionally mastered CD which will be made available to all schools for use throughout the 2017-2018 academic year—The Year of the School. The CD and winning entries will be revealed in late June during our annual red and white spirit day. Watch for more details on the Canada150 website and through separate emails from our Communications Department.

Our TCDSB Story: The Tessellation Project

Schools have already received information and a resource package with respect to this unique collaborative artwork, which will reflect the tapestry of our Catholic schools. Each school will be creating a unique piece of the tessellation (puzzle) to acknowledge their individuality as a school community, while also recognizing our interconnectedness with one another. These pieces will

tell Our TCDSB Story and speak to our pastoral plan, our place in Canada's 150-year history and to the diversity of our students, staff, families and parishes.

Canada 150 Digital Time Capsule: The Canada150 site will host a digital time capsule which will become an anthology of the many events, projects and highlights from the sesquicentennial celebrations that are happening around the Board. Schools will be able to upload their special moments that pay tribute to Canada150 and Ontario150 whether that be through write ups and photographs, videos or other materials.

TCDSB Heritage Moments: Starting with the first day of school in September 2017, we will be sharing special moments in our own TCDSB history via Twitter using the hashtag #150TCDSBMoments. These will be short video snippets, photographs and "did you knows" that highlight who we are and where we are going. It will be an opportunity to celebrate our diversity, our connections with parish, family and school, and our place in the history of the province and the country.

TCDSB 150 Acts of Kindness: The Canada150@TCDSB website features an live Acts of Kindness web tool where anyone can submit examples of acts of kindness experienced or demonstrated by students, staff and community members. These personal submissions will chronicle stories, photos and videos of kind acts demonstrating our mission and vision as a Catholic board.

Our schools are reminded to share their events, projects, photos and ideas via twitter using the hashtag #Canada150TCDSB.

This is just the beginning. Stay tuned for more information soon.

In the meantime, remember to check out <https://www.tcdsb.org/Canada150> periodically for all the latest information relating to Canada150.

Sincerely,

*Angela Gauthier
Kennedy
Director of Education
Board*

*Angela
Chair of the*