



# NEWS RELEASE

November 29, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Communications  
Department  
80 Sheppard Avenue East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M2N 6E8

## Media Contact:

Emmy Szekeres Milne  
Acting Sr Coordinator of  
Communications, Public and  
Media Relations  
416-222-8282 ext. 2356  
[emmy.szekeresmilne@tcdsb.org](mailto:emmy.szekeresmilne@tcdsb.org)  
Follow us on Twitter@TCDSB  
[www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org)

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board educates close to 90,000 students from diverse cultures and language backgrounds in 195 Catholic elementary and secondary schools, approximately half-a-million Catholic school supporters across the City of Toronto. As the world's largest publicly funded Catholic school system, we educate students in an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity. At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.*

## Toronto Catholic District School Board Recommends Maria Rizzo as Chair of the Board

The Toronto Catholic District School Board has recommended Ward 5 Trustee Maria Rizzo as the new Chair at the Caucus meeting this evening. Mike Del Grande, Trustee for Ward 7, has been recommended as Vice-Chair. The recommendations from Caucus will be considered at the Inaugural Meeting on Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. when the new Board of Trustees is sworn in.

Trustee Rizzo was elected to the Toronto Catholic District School Board in 2003. Prior to that she was elected as Trustee for the North York Board of Education in 1982 and North York City Councilor in 1991. Maria is a fervent advocate for education, community empowerment and social justice.

With a lifetime of community service, she worked with the Elizabeth Fry Society and Catholic Children's Aid Society. She has served as Executive Director of several nonprofit organizations including Crohn's and Colitis Canada, as Vice-President of the National Congress of Italian Canadians, as well as being one of the founding members of the North York Community House.

With TCDSB, Maria Rizzo has served in various capacities including as Vice-Chair of the Board. Committee membership has included Corporate Services, Student Achievement, Governance, By-law, Compensation, Budget, Communication, Spanish Advisory, Parent Involvement and Sweatshop Free Committees.

"Our common passion for putting students before politics should unite us," she told her colleagues. "We can build a culture of team work together."

Trustee Rizzo emphasized the need to get to the root of problems, put students first and close the opportunity gaps. "We need to provide a voice for those who are often not heard."

Mike Del Grande was first elected to TCDSB in 1993, serving three terms, including one year as Chair. He returned to the TCDSB as a Trustee in 2014, after serving three consecutive terms as Councilor with the City of Toronto, with positions including Budget Chief and Chair of the Budget Committee.

A former Chartered Accountant, he also holds a Bachelor of Education degree from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), an international leader in teacher training. A product of the system, having attended Holy Cross and St. Aloysius Catholic Schools and Neil McNeil Catholic Secondary School, Mike is married with three children who all attended TCDSB schools.

He remains active in his parish community of St. Aidan's, and served as Treasurer for 20 years, Financial Advisor for St. Aidan's New Church Building Fund.

Mr. Del Grande spoke to the blend of leadership styles and perspectives that he and Trustee Rizzo bring to the leadership of the Board, emphasizing their common goals. He also spoke to the need to move forward quickly on a number of pressing issues, referring to himself as a person of action.

\_\_\_\_\_