



## TCDSB Seeks Parent/Community Representatives for Board Committees

Two representatives are sought for the **Safe Schools Advisory Committee**.

Application deadline is **October 5<sup>th</sup>**. Information and online application is available on our website:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/Pages/Safe-Schools-Advisory-Committee-Parent-Reps-Needed.aspx>

TCDSB is also seeking new members for its **Indigenous Education Advisory Committee**. All positions are voluntary and candidates must identify as Indigenous. Students in grade 11 and above are welcome.

Applications are available

at: <https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/FirstNationsMetisAndInuit/IEAC%20Membership%20Application/Membership%20Application.pdf>

Completed applications can be sent via email to [vanessa.pinto@tcdsb.org](mailto:vanessa.pinto@tcdsb.org)

Application deadline: **October 12, 2018**

## Important Information For Students

### Ontario College Information Fair

**October 23-24**

Enercare Centre

Details: <https://ocif.ca/>

### High School Open Houses

Various dates, times and locations

<https://www.tcdsb.org/school/openhouses/pages/default.aspx>

## October 22--Municipal Elections

Note before you vote: check your designation as a Catholic school supporter on your latest property tax assessment. If you are not designated as a Catholic school supporter you will not be eligible to vote for a Catholic School Trustee. More information here:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/board/trusteesoftheboard/pages/municipal-elections.aspx>

## Consultation: Education in Ontario

The Province of Ontario invites everyone – parents, students, educators and interested individuals or organizations – to provide feedback on the education system in Ontario.

The goal is to prepare Ontario students for success, improve their academic achievement and equip them with the tools needed to enter the working world.

**Consultation closing date: December 15, 2018**

There are three ways for people to participate:

An online submission form, available now, that allows people, organizations or groups to provide their views on any of the consultation topics. Submissions can also be sent to the ministry by emailing [fortheparents@ontario.ca](mailto:fortheparents@ontario.ca) or [ausedesparents@ontario.ca](mailto:ausedesparents@ontario.ca).

An online survey that will be available soon in English and French, with questions that relate to the key themes below.

Telephone town halls across Ontario, with separate town halls in English and French. The telephone town hall discussions will be aligned with the themes discussed in the survey. The dates and times of these town halls will be posted on [fortheparents.ca](http://fortheparents.ca) as they become available.

The consultations are intended to focus on the following topics:

- How to improve student performance in the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM);
- How our schools are preparing students with needed job skills;
- What more can be done to ensure students graduate with important life skills, like financial literacy;
- How to build an updated and age-appropriate Health and Physical Education curriculum that includes subjects like sexual health education, mental health and the legalization of cannabis;
- What measures can be taken to improve standardized testing;
- What steps schools should take regarding the use of technology in classrooms, such as the use of cell phones; and
- What elements would participants like to see included in the Ministry of Education Parents' Bill of Rights.

For up-to-date information on all of the ways people can participate, please visit [fortheparents.ca](http://fortheparents.ca).

## **Equity Message from Director and Chair**

The Toronto Catholic District School Board maintains its commitment to equity and inclusion as ever-present goals, critical responsibilities and moral imperatives. Our three-year Equity Action Plan is a renewal of our promise to ensure equity at all levels of our system as we strive to close the achievement gap, enhance student physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, and ensure equity of opportunity and outcomes for all.

As a Catholic learning community, we are inspired and guided by the Gospel in our relentless pursuit of equity as a value rooted in our faith. We know that the Gospel is best lived through action. It is for this reason that we have developed the Plan in the pages that follow. It is our call to act with intentionality to ensure that those we serve are treated with respect and dignity as brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Plan is comprehensive. Modeled on *Ontario's Education Equity Action Plan, 2017*, it encompasses *school and classroom practices, leadership governance and human resource practices, data collection integration and reporting, and organizational culture in a Catholic learning community*.

Our schools and classrooms must be places where students' lived experiences are valued and celebrated; where they see themselves in the curriculum; where they are authentically engaged; and where barriers to their success are identified and removed. Our governance and human resource practices will support welcoming, safe, and inclusive learning environments and ensure that those who serve our communities reflect our diversity. We must also know more deeply who we are. Data collection, integration and reporting will help us to better understand our needs and our strengths, inform our decisions, and guide our actions. Equity must be the lens through which we embrace and manage cultural change in our Catholic learning community.

The work of equity calls upon each of us to act with sincerity, integrity, and commitment to ensure that everyone feels a sense of belonging, and is encouraged and supported to thrive and succeed to the best of their abilities. As we work to bring this action plan to life, let us remember to see the face of Christ in every child, every parent and every co-worker.

### **Thanksgiving Message from Director and Chair**

During October, we reflect on the virtue of gratitude, and as Thanksgiving weekend approaches, we are mindful of the many things in our lives for which we can be thankful. We are grateful for the precious gifts that we have in our lives including our publicly funded Catholic Education school system, and the peace and freedom we enjoy as Canadians.

Our Board gives thanks for the enthusiastic young people who are at the heart of the work that we do to help transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action. We are grateful for all of our staff who work daily to inspire and motivate our students to become the best they can possibly be as well as our administrative staff committed to providing the best learning environments and resources. We have a deep appreciation for our parents and our parish partners who support our school communities in so many ways. This triad of home, school and parish is the foundation of our success.

We also acknowledge the importance of this year's Pastoral Plan which reminds us that *we **Belong*** to the TCDSB family. We are grateful for a community that provides an inclusive and caring learning environment where its members are accepted for their unique gifts and talents, and are nurtured to be the best they can be.

This Thanksgiving we thank everyone for the important role they play in helping our students succeed.

Have a safe, happy and blessed Thanksgiving weekend!

### **Event Reminders:**

- **October 4—TCDSB Celebrates Rosary Day**
- **October 4—TCDSB Celebrates World Teachers' Day**
- **October 5—System Wide PA Day**
- **October 8--Thanksgiving**
- **October 12--TCDSB Newcomer Student Conference** The Toronto Catholic District School Board will welcome over 200 newcomer youth for a student conference. This year's theme is We Belong. [Click here for registration and information.](#)
- **October 17—Early Childhood Educator and Child Care Worker Appreciation Day**

### **October is...**

- National Principals' Month
- Autism Awareness Month
- Learning Disabilities Awareness Month
- Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Latin Hispanic Canadian Heritage Month

- Walk to School Month

For information about any events and observances throughout the month, visit [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org)

### **Upcoming Meeting**

- October 4—Student Achievement Committee—Agenda:  
<https://tcdsbpublishing.escribemeetings.com/Meeting?Id=5a0f8468-eebf-4f89-993d-3c34c32a4b54&Agenda=Agenda>

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