

October 20, 2022

The Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Ministry of Education  
438 University Ave., 5th Floor,  
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Dear Minister Lecce:

At the September 21st, 2022 meeting of the Halton District School Board (HDSB), Board of Trustees meeting, the Board passed the following resolution requesting the Minister of Education revoke and replace wording in Section 264(1)(c) of the Education Act:

*Be it resolved that the Chair in collaboration with the Director write a letter to the Minister of Education regarding Section 264(1)(c) of the Education Act, requesting that this section be revoked and replaced with a clause that is inclusive of Ontario's diverse population.*

Section 264(1)(c) of the Act under Duties of teacher states:

*(c) to inculcate by precept and example respect for religion and the principles of Judaeo-Christian morality and the highest regard for truth, justice, loyalty, love of country, humanity, benevolence, sobriety, industry, frugality, purity, temperance and all other virtues;*

We believe this is contrary to Provincial PPM 119 (Developing and implementing equity and inclusive education policies in Ontario schools) which states: "**Providing a high-quality education for all is a key means of fostering social cohesion based on an inclusive society where diversity is affirmed within a framework of common values that promote the well-being of all citizens.**" It is these common values that should be the focus.

The three goals of the Province's *Realizing the Promise of Diversity: Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy* are outlined in PPM 119, as follows:

- shared and committed leadership by the ministry, board, and schools to eliminate discrimination through the identification and removal of biases and barriers.
- equity and inclusive education policies and practices to support positive learning environments that are respectful and welcoming to all.

- accountability and transparency with ongoing progress demonstrated and communicated to the ministry and the community.

In this spirit, we respectfully ask the Minister to revoke and replace Section 264(1)(c) of the Act to reflect contemporary and current diversity, equity and inclusion policy and practices, and to reflect the Calls to Action 62 and 63s brought forward by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Respectfully,



Margo Shuttleworth  
Board Chair



Curtis Ennis  
Director of Education

CC: Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP  
Natalie Pierre, MPP  
Parm Gill, MPP  
Stephen Crawford, MPP  
Ted Arnott, MPP  
Ontario School Board Chairs (English Public, English Catholic, French Public, French Catholic)  
Cathy Abraham, President, Ontario Public School Boards' Association