



**ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION**

Leading Education's Advocates

Ontario Public School Boards' Association
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Cathy Abraham
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Steven Del Duca
Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party
steven@stevendeluca.ca

Dear Mr. Del Duca:

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as leader of the Ontario Liberal Party. I realize this occurred in early March but things have certainly changed since then.

While we may be in uncertain and uncharted waters at the moment, we know that in Ontario, we are fortunate to have one of the best education systems in the world. We are confident that by working together as partners with you and your party, as well as the government and other opposition parties, we will be able to face the many challenges that lie ahead over the course of this pandemic.

Our Association continues to build on our long-standing excellent working relationships with several members of your caucus, including former Premier and school board trustee, MPP Kathleen Wynne, MPPs Michael Coteau (another former trustee), Mitzie Hunter (a past Minister of Education) and John Fraser. Through these relationships, we know we share a common goal to continue our work in creating one of the world's finest public education systems.

We advocate for public education every day, and know we need to work together with all parties at Queen's Park to shape our education system to better serve all students and families in Ontario. OPSBA is represented on a number of key government working tables and our work has resulted in many successful outcomes over our 32-year history.

While they are not currently open, amazing things happen in public schools across the province. Our schools accept everyone who walks through their doors and our students are creating lasting friendships and memories with fellow classmates who come from diverse backgrounds. This contributes to what makes our public school system so incredible and allows each child to reach their own success.

The voice of locally elected trustees makes a significant and direct contribution to the achievement and well-being of all students. OPSBA continues to promote the role and voice of school boards, and trustees, who are the only publicly elected officials with the direct responsibility for the education of our children. As a non-partisan organization, we have a long

history of building positive and mutually respectful working relationships with politicians and staff from all parties represented in the Ontario Legislature. These relationships allow us to successfully represent the voice of our members on the many issues that affect our students and communities.

We look forward to sharing our priorities with you which focus on providing universally accessible education for all students, regardless of their ethnic, racial or cultural backgrounds, social or economic status, individual exceptionality, or religious preference. We hope, through working with you closely, that we can confirm your party's commitment to supporting and investing in public education.

We would like to schedule a phone or video call soon and I will ask our staff to help coordinate this. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly for consultation or advice on any issue affecting public education in the weeks and months ahead.

Most sincerely,



Cathy Abraham
President

cc.

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The Ontario Public School Boards' Association represents English public district school boards and public school authorities across Ontario, which together serve more than 1.3 million public elementary and secondary students. The Association advocates on behalf of the best interests and needs of the public school system in Ontario. OPSBA is seen as the credible voice of public education in Ontario and is routinely called on by the provincial government for input and advice on legislation and the impact of government policy directions.