



**ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION**

Leading Education's Advocates

Ontario Public School Boards' Association
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Cathy Abraham
President

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Executive Director

October 31, 2019

The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Dear Minister:

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) has long been a supporter of Local Government Week (LGW) as part of our advocacy work to increase and promote the importance of democratically and locally elected school board trustees. During the week of October 20 to 26, we asked our 31 member boards to promote civic awareness and the role of trustees among Ontario students, and in particular in Grade 5 and Grade 10 civics classes.

We updated resources to assist trustees in facilitating classroom sessions, including a Word document and a short PowerPoint presentation, which can be found at www.opsba.org. Part of our promotion was via Twitter using the hashtag [#LocalGovWeek](https://twitter.com/LocalGovWeek).

In past years, OPSBA has worked with your Ministry and the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), to promote resources for school boards and municipalities. This year, however, confirmation of provincial support for LGW did not occur until mid-October, leaving us, and our members, wondering whether the Ministry would be assisting in coordinating efforts as in past years as we worked to finalize resources.

To ensure this important week of education and advocacy regarding local democracy and governance continues to find success in coming years, we respectfully request a meeting regarding the future of LGW be coordinated by your Ministry and including the following associations:

- OPSBA
- AMCTO
- The Ministry of Education
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- The Ontario Student Trustees' Association - l'Association des élèves conseillers et conseillères de l'Ontario (OSTA-AECO)
- The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
- The Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
- The Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)

We look forward to hearing from you again soon regarding Local Government Week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Abraham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathy Abraham
President Ontario Public School Boards' Association

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.

cc.

Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister of Education