

September 4, 2025

Dear Minister Calandra,

On behalf of the Black Trustees' Caucus (BTC), thank you for meeting with us on August 21 and for your openness in engaging in such an important conversation. We appreciated the opportunity to share our priorities and to hear your perspective on how we can work together to advance student success, equity and well-being in Ontario's public education system.

As we shared during our conversation, our dual role as trustees and representatives of Black communities gives us a unique lens into the challenges and opportunities facing Black students and families. We know that when schools are inclusive, identity-affirming and equitable, every student benefits, not just Black students.

In our discussion we were encouraged by your willingness to engage on several key areas:

- *Student mental health and well-being* – including the importance of targeted supports, the provincial expansion of the *Graduation Coach Program for Black Students* and the opportunity to embed meaningful Black representation throughout the curriculum.
- *Accountability and data* – recognizing the need for measurable, transparent frameworks that help boards track progress, address systemic gaps, and drive real improvement for students.
- *Ongoing communication with Black education stakeholders* – particularly the idea of establishing meaningful and authentic communication that ensures voices from across Ontario are reflected in decision-making.
- *The OHRC's **Dreams Delayed** report* – acknowledging the urgency of moving from recommendations to action, with strong provincial leadership to ensure consistent, sustainable progress across boards and the need for a focus on measurable outcomes for students.

To keep this momentum moving, we look forward to receiving communication regarding commitments on timelines, related resources, and accountability measures.

As trustees, we bring the on-the-ground knowledge, governance experience and community connection needed to turn commitments into action. The BTC's goal is to strengthen accountability and transparency so Black students and families experience real, measurable change in Ontario's education system.

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with us and for recognizing the importance of this work.

We look forward to building on this conversation and working with you and your team to ensure every student, especially those who have been historically underserved, can thrive in Ontario's education system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Debbie King'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Debbie King  
Chair, Black Trustees' Caucus  
Ontario Public School Boards' Association

CC: Madison Lee, Director of Stakeholder Relations and Tour  
Kathleen Woodcock, President  
Stephanie Donaldson, Executive Director  
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