



**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

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Dear Minister Thompson,

I would like to thank you again for your initial outreach to OPSBA and I look forward to opportunities to work collaboratively to support our students, their families and school board staff. This letter is a follow-up to our conversation and specifically my public comments regarding the Health and Physical Education curriculum.

As you are aware our member boards serve the educational needs of almost 70% of Ontario's elementary and secondary students. The mandated role of publically elected school board trustees is to support student achievement and well-being for each and every student in their care. OPSBA's key priorities have always focused on the social, emotional, intellectual, physical and mental well-being of children and youth. OPSBA and its members strongly supported the release of the revised curriculum in 2015 which reflects our priorities and the foundational principles of equity, social justice, inclusion and diversity.

As a non-partisan organization, OPSBA understands the government's stated commitment to a consultation process on the revised curriculum and supports the need for transparency, clarity and open, two way communication. OPSBA also has the responsibility to support the needs of our member boards and their staff as they prepare for the 2018-19 school year.

Given the complexities of timing and the need for teacher/staff preparation, we are willing to offer our assistance to discuss options that can help to provide clarity to school boards and to ensure that it is appropriately balanced by a modernized approach that incorporates the required school board Human Rights and Equity policies. Given the media and public attention on this issue, we believe that this process needs to expedited to ensure the safety and security of the students in our collective care.

I look forward to hearing back from you in order to move this issue forward in the most timely and productive manner.

Regards,

Cathy Abraham
President
Ontario Public School Boards' Association

c.c: The Office of the Premier