



ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION

Leading Education's Advocates

Ontario Public School Boards' Association
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Cathy Abraham
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The Honourable Jenna Sudds
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
MP Kanata—Carleton
jenna.sudds@parl.gc.ca

Dear MP Sudds:

On behalf of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA), I would like to offer my congratulations on your recent appointment as the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development.

One of OPSBA's key priorities is Student Success, Equity, and Well-Being -- promoting and advancing high-quality, equitable, and inclusive learning environments to support student success and well-being. This includes ensuring that when our students attend school, they have the nourishment they need to learn and grow and improve their health and well-being.

Last year, we participated in a federal government consultation and shared our support for a National School Food Policy and Program. The issue had been discussed by our trustee members and we sent a letter to the former minister which can be accessed [on our website](#).

In addition, we recently signed on as an endorser of the [Coalition for Healthy School Food](#), and have supported their work with an upcoming proposal to Ontario's Ministry of Education that includes recommendations for next steps for food literacy and school food in Ontario.

The Coalition works with the [Canadian School Boards Association](#) (CSBA), which represents OPSBA at the federal level, and also fully supports a National School Food Policy and Program. CSBA and its provincial member boards will be in Ottawa in early October for an Advocacy Week, meeting with several federal ministers to discuss important education-related issues. I will be attending along with OPSBA's Executive Director, Stephanie Donaldson, and hope we will be able to schedule a meeting with you and your staff.

We are aware of your work to increase food access in your local community and our colleagues in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board speak highly of your commitment and dedication to this worthy initiative. We look forward to participating in the next steps and learning the timelines for the implementation of a National School Food Policy and Program.

And finally, considering the mandate of your new portfolio, these other reports and publications may be of interest as well:

- *Beyond knowledge: Preparing students for an uncertain future*
- *Transitioning from the COVID-19 School Experience*
- *OPSBA's 2022-2023 Annual Report*

Please do not hesitate to contact me or the helpful OPSBA staff if you have any questions or are looking for more information regarding our advocacy work. I look forward to meeting with you in early October.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Abraham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Cathy Abraham
President

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.