



# Proposed Modernization of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act

August 26, 2024

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To: Emergency Management Policy and Governance Branch  
Emergency Management Ontario  
Treasury Board Secretariat

[EMOPolicy@Ontario.ca](mailto:EMOPolicy@Ontario.ca)

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) appreciates this opportunity to provide comments regarding Emergency Management Ontario's engagement for the proposed modernization of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* to support a safe, practiced and prepared Ontario – before, during and after emergencies. The consultation discussion guide was shared with us by the Ministry of Education, and as a significant entity in the Broader Public Sector, we wanted to offer our support for this review and our inclusion in any planning.

Safety is a top priority for Ontario's English Public School Boards, who are collectively committed to providing environments that are safe, welcoming, and inclusive for all of our students, families, staff and communities. As a key employer within the education sector, school boards are safety leaders. They have strong policies and procedures in place to address health and safety concerns, and many boards have established protocols with their local municipalities.

The discussion guide and its references to the [\*Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act\*](#) indicate the province's legal framework for managing emergencies and includes responsibilities to provincial ministries, municipalities, and specific individuals. We want to ensure that this includes collaboration with school boards and involves representatives from school boards in any committee or task force that is responsible for emergency management or planning.

We believe that communication to parents directly from government should only occur during the operational management of an emergency. School boards should be involved in this as well in terms of coordination and ensuring communications reaching the entire school community as they know their communities best in terms of the best formats and languages to use.

We would be pleased to discuss this further and will connect with the Ministry of Education about next steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kathleen Woodcock'.

Kathleen Woodcock  
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Stephanie Donaldson'.

Stephanie Donaldson  
Executive Director

cc.

Ana Sajfert, Director of Stakeholder Relations & Strategic Communications