



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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January 23, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Patrick J. Daly, President

SUBJECT: **Bill 193, Rowan's Law (Concussion Safety), 2017**

On December 14, 2017 the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport introduced for first reading Bill 193, Rowan's Law which sets out a legislative framework for concussion management and prevention. The bill applies to organized amateur competitive sports in schools, colleges and universities and communication groups. The legislation will require the following of school boards:

- Annual review of concussion awareness resources that help prevent, identify and manage concussions which athletes, coaches, educators and parents would be required to review before registering in a sport;
- Removal-from-sport and return-to-sport protocols, to ensure that an athlete is immediately removed from sport if they are suspected of having sustained a concussion, allowing them the time required to heal properly;
- A concussion code of conduct that would set out rules of behaviour to minimize concussions while playing sport.

The legislation also includes proposed amendments to the *Education Act* that would give the Minister of Education authority to issue binding policies and guidelines for school boards regarding concussions in students consistent with Bill 193.

In terms of the Bill's impact on PPM 158: School Board Policies on Concussion, the bill would make PPM 158 mandatory and include some additional requirements such as a concussion code of conduct.

Next Steps

The Bill will be scheduled for second reading and committee input in February. In addition, the Ministry of Education will hold consultation sessions with school boards to determine what further changes may be required to PPM 158.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Stephen Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca.