

The Year in Review

2009-2010



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

OUR MISSION

Inspired by the Gospel, we provide leadership, service and a provincial voice for Catholic School Boards in promoting and protecting Catholic education.

OUR VISION

In keeping with our Mission, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association:

OPERATIONAL VALUES

- 76 **Embodies** and promotes the values and traditions of our Catholic faith in all Association activities.
- 76 **Respects** the principles of democratic and accountable governance.

POLITICAL ADVOCACY

- 76 **Protects** the constitutional right of the Catholic community to govern, control and manage Catholic schools.
- 76 **Promotes** education in our province that reflects the Catholic principles of social justice.
- 76 **Advocates** for government recognition of the distinctive nature of Catholic education.
- 76 **Advocates** for provincial policy, legislation and funding support that enable Catholic boards to provide quality Catholic education.
- 76 **Influences** the strategic and political direction of the Ontario government and opposition parties regarding issues that impact Catholic education.

INFORMATION & SERVICES

- 76 **Provides** faith formation and professional development resources and opportunities for its members.
- 76 **Provides** to member boards information and services that recognize their diverse circumstances and needs.

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 76 **Develops** effective structures that enhance communication and working relationships among OCSTA and its member boards.
- 76 **Communicates** with member Boards and Catholic partners regarding relevant educational issues and OCSTA activities.
- 76 **Promotes** public understanding of and support for Catholic education.
- 76 **Celebrates** and **highlights** Catholic education's significant and continuing contribution to Ontario society.

PARTNERSHIPS

- 76 **Stimulates** ongoing visioning of how Catholic education partners can collaborate to serve the interests of Catholic education.
- 76 **Builds** significant partnerships within and beyond the Catholic community in support of Catholic education.

September 1, 2009 to September 1, 2010
Message to OCSTA Members

Nancy Kirby
President



Kevin Kobus
Executive Director



“Rejoicing in Hope” was a fitting theme for our Catholic schools in 2009-10. As the economic recession increased pressure on board budgets, Ontario’s Catholic schools continued to realize strong academic and faith development achievements. That success is a reflection of our Catholic faith tradition, our students and families, our staff and our school board leadership.

During the 2009-10 school year the Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association (OCSTA) continued to represent and advance the interests and priorities of our Catholic school board members to the provincial government and other education partners.

Among the key legislative issues arising during the year, the most significant may well have been the passage of legislation affecting school board governance and the role of the trustee - *Bill 177 – An Act to amend the Education Act with respect to student achievement, school board governance and certain other matters*. As part of the consultation process, OCSTA proposed amendments to the legislation and we are pleased to acknowledge that many of those amendments were reflected in the final version of the Bill.

You can read further details about this effort in the Legislative and Political Affairs section of this report.

One of the major program initiatives announced in the 2009-10 year was the province’s Early Learning Program. While the government’s focus on our youngest learners is commendable, the Association was made acutely aware of school boards’ significant concerns

surrounding program implementation and funding.

The Association surveyed boards to both quantify and qualify the exact issues anticipated. Equipped with this information, OCSTA successfully advocated for the fair and equitable roll out of the Early Learning Program.

The 2009-10 school-year was filled with change, challenges and new directions. Throughout that period, however, the key constant has been and will continue to be our Catholic faith and the commitment to maintain a strong and vibrant publicly funded faith-filled learning community for all Catholic families. That focus has succeeded at keeping our system a thriving one throughout the years.

As a unified body of dedicated Catholic trustee leaders and educators we are on a solid foundation for the work, challenges and opportunities ahead of us.

“Hope is visible in our Catholic schools whenever we find prayer, trust in God’s faithfulness and work for peace and justice.”

Our Language, Our Story, EOCCC

Yours in Catholic education,

Handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is 'N.A. Kirby' and the second is 'K. Kobus'.

Catholic Education

Every school year brings with it the expected – students and teachers interact in classrooms across the province with learning taking place on both sides – and the unexpected – political, legislative, and financial. The school year 2009 – 2010 was no exception except, perhaps, in the sheer amount of the unexpected. One after another, new legislation on Early Childhood Learning, Equity and Inclusivity, School Trusteeship came inexorably to demand our attention and action. Each in its own way challenged and challenges us at the core of what makes us distinctive and different – our being Catholic.

The school year 2010 – 2011 will see the beginning of the implementation of these new regulations. Considerable work has been done, and continues to be done, to ensure that our denominational rights are in no way diminished or violated.

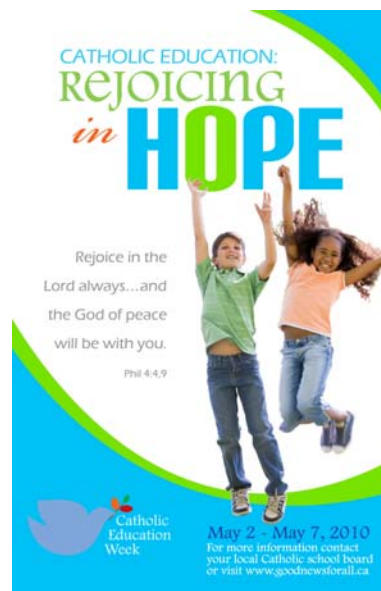
Our publicly-funded Catholic school system is constantly challenged as to its very existence. It has always been so and is most likely to remain so. In an increasingly secularist and pluralistic Ontario society, in a world that views our Church as charged with the cover-up of very serious abuses, we are entrusted with proclaiming the Gospel Values of Jesus Christ to our students and through them to the world. It is an awesome responsibility but we are not alone. *“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of time.” (Mt 28: 20)*

Catholic Education Week 2010

The reports, both verbal and written, which we received, indicated that Catholic Education Week 2010 was well celebrated across the province. The theme – *Catholic Education: Rejoicing in Hope* seems to have struck an empathetic chord with many in the Catholic community.

Many Boards incorporate the theme for Catholic Education Week into their Board’s vision statements for the respective school year

which generates many requests for the next year’s theme to be made available as early as possible in the closing months of the current school year. This will be facilitated.



The Archdiocese of Toronto, through its Communications Department circulated a Catholic Education Week package to each parish which included an insert for the parish bulletin, a sample prayer of the faithful, and a message to be read at each Mass by a trustee, parent, student, teacher or administrator.

The Assessment Summaries which we received were complimentary of the Kits and their effectiveness. In order to highlight the activities that took place across the province the Association invited boards to direct to staff reports of their activities and initiatives. Those reports and photos were posted to the OCSTA website and can be accessed at the following location:

<http://www.ocsta.on.ca/2010CatholicEdWeekHighlights.aspx>

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2011 is:- *Catholic Education: Celebrating the Spirit*. We have much to celebrate. Publicly-funded Catholic Education has contributed, and continues to contribute very much to the religious, educational, social, political and financial fabric of Ontario and to Canada.

Our alumnae and alumni have borne witness to the quality and different educational

experience they received in our schools. Through them the renewing Pentecost Spirit of God with its sevenfold gifts will renew the face of the earth.

Religious Education A.Q. Courses

During the period surrounding the close of the school year, the Director of Catholic Education visited the fourteen sites where the jointly sponsored OCSTA/OECTA Summer Religious Education Additional Qualification Courses were held across the province. Because of the decline in hiring, the number of participants in Part I has decreased, and in some sites significantly.

A number of the participants in Part I were on Assigned Occasional contracts. The numbers in Parts II and III remain relatively constant. The rigour and quality of the instruction remain high. The Director of Catholic Education attended a number of classes in each site, and was impressed by the quality of the instruction and the commitment of the participants.

Ensuring the genuine Catholicity of our system remains a constant challenge for all who are involved in this Enduring Gift at the leadership level. Thousands of parents entrust their children to our Catholic schools with the hope, however that may be expressed or understood, that they will learn or absorb a set of values that will give meaning to their lives. These values we know as the Gospel Values of Jesus Christ. We insist on our right that these values be infused in our curricula and in every aspect of a Catholic school life. That is why we are schools with a difference in Boards with a difference.

That we are objects of criticism from both within and without the Catholic Church should not unduly surprise or worry us. This is, after all, a human institution and there is always the human propensity to make mistakes. We cannot foretell the impact that our Christ-driven curriculum, both open and hidden, has had on the thousands of students that have graced our schools. *The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who*

is born of the Spirit (John 3:8) Our responsibility is not to get in the way!

Legislative and Political Affairs

Bill 177 – Student Achievement and School Board Governance Act, 2010

In May, 2009, the province introduced Bill 177, *the Student Achievement and School Board Governance Act, 2010*. Much of the draft legislation was based on recommendations of the provincial Governance Review Committee, to which OCSTA had considerable input on behalf of Catholic school Boards.

On October 26, 2009, OCSTA appeared before the Standing Committee on Social Policy to formally present comments on Bill 177. Our brief had earlier been shared with our member boards, whom we encouraged to make submissions as well. We are grateful to the number of boards who responded and so strongly reinforced the points made in the OCSTA brief.

When the Bill as amended was reported back to the House in November, we were very pleased to see that several of the amendments responded directly to concerns expressed by OCSTA and Catholic boards, as well as by the other trustee associations. As a result of our collective interventions, the language of the amended Bill has become more clear and positive in tone regarding the duties of school board members. Most significantly, the province removed the original proposal that the role of elected trustees be subject to change by cabinet through a simple regulatory amendment.

It should be noted that Bill 177 ensures that the number of trustees on any school board will be maintained at the number determined for the 2006 municipal election, despite any decreases in the board's electoral base. This is a welcome change that responds directly to OCSTA's concerns about the significant inaccuracies in the voters' list and electoral lists, which up till now would have impacted trustee numbers.

Provincial Interest Regulation

The long-anticipated Provincial Interest Regulation (PIR) was filed on February 26, 2010. Its release was the culmination of a long process of consultation, and, at times, confusion, that began in June 2009, when the province invited the four trustee associations to respond to a consultation paper on the proposed regulation.

The PIR is intended to strengthen school boards' accountability for student achievement and well-being. It allows the Minister to intervene in a board's affairs if there are concerns regarding a board's performance in certain areas, such as student achievement, student health and safety, board governance or administration or parent involvement.

Authority for the regulation rests in section 11.1 of the Education Act and not in Bill 177, as many believed when both documents were circulated at the same time.

Over the summer months, and with the assistance of representatives from our partners at OCSOA, ECCODE and CPCO, OCSTA prepared a preliminary response to the document. The Association pointed out to the Ministry that Catholic boards have always held student success and academic improvement as high priorities, and that the degree of provincial oversight proposed by the draft regulation, including the possibility of provincial supervision, was an offensive and unnecessary intrusion into the work of school boards.

OCSTA's significant concerns, together with similar feedback from many of our partners in education, were heard by the province and the draft PIR was substantially revised. The final PIR filed February 26, 2010, creates a process for provincial intervention that is far more constructive, supportive collegial and respectful of the partnership between school boards and the government than the draft

Access Copyright Tariff 2005-09 – Ministry Funding of Retroactive Portion

On June 26, 2009, the Copyright Board of Canada released its decision setting the photocopying tariff for the years 2005-2009 at

\$5.16 per FTE student. Although the tariff for years 2005-06 to 2008-09 was discounted, the amount owing by school boards as a result of the new tariff was substantial.

For many months, beginning well before the Copyright Board rendered its decision, OCSTA repeatedly advised the Minister of Education and Ministry staff that school boards had no revenue in their budgets to cover these retroactive amounts, and that these costs would have to be absorbed by the province.

Our strong advocacy was rewarded on October 16, 2009, when the Ministry announced they would provide financial support to boards facing retroactive copyright fees and interest – a total of \$20.9 million in one-time funding to boards across the province. School Boards remained responsible for the ongoing increase in fees.

In July 2009, the CMEC Copyright Consortium, acting on behalf of school boards across Canada, filed an application for judicial review of the Copyright Board decision, contending that the Board made errors in the areas of the fair dealing exception and tests and examination exception.

The CMEC Copyright Consortium scored a minor victory in regard to the appeal on the tests and examinations exception. The Court ruled that the Copyright Board's analysis on this matter had not been adequate and sent the issue back to the Copyright Board for reconsideration.

On the fair dealing issue, the appeal was unsuccessful. CMEC will decide whether to seek leave to appeal the Federal Court of Appeal Decision to the Supreme Court. Securing legislative amendments to the current Copyright Act may in the end be the best means of achieving what is required for schools. Discussion of some positive amendments is currently underway in Ottawa through Bill C-32.

The use of copyrighted materials, both in print and on the Internet, is an important and necessary part of the education of students in our schools. Providing legal access to those materials is a multi-million dollar expense to school boards.

OCSTA will continue to monitor both of these important copyright issues and will provide updates to our boards as they become available.

Full Day Early Learning Program

On October 27, 2009, the Premier announced the first phase of Ontario's plan for a province-wide Early Learning Program (ELP) – the implementation of full-day early learning for four and five year olds.

From that day forward, OCSTA has been proactive in monitoring the potential impact of the ELP on the denominational rights of Catholic school boards. Legal opinions sought by the Association confirmed

- a) Catholic boards' right to locate and manage Catholic schools and their programs, including the ELP, in order to meet the needs of the Catholic community, and
- b) the right of Catholic boards to give preference to Catholic applicants for positions as Early Childhood Educators within the ELP.

This legal advice was shared with our member boards as well as with Ministry officials as appropriate.

In March, 2010, OCSTA appeared before the Standing Committee on Social Policy to present our position on Bill 242, the *Full Day Early Learning Statute Law Amendment Act*, which had been introduced in February. OCSTA emphasized that the implementation of the ELP at every stage requires fair and non-discriminatory treatment of all boards, and must fully respect the distinctive nature and mandate of all four systems.

When Committee hearings concluded, OCSTA and all trustee associations were pleased that, as we had strongly advocated, the Bill was amended to allow boards to maintain agreements with community partners to provide before and after school programs relating to JK/SK students, if only as a two-year interim measure.

OCSTA has played an active role in providing advice on ELP implementation through

membership on the provincial Early Learning Implementation Advisory Group and through ongoing consultations with Ministry officials regarding regulations and policies related to the ELP.

In order to best represent the needs of Catholic boards to the province, OCSTA has structured our own Early Learning Work Group, made up of Early Learning leads from a number of boards across the province, who will meet regularly with OCSTA staff by teleconference. All member boards are encouraged to keep OCSTA informed of their challenges, concerns and successes in implementing the ELP.

Ontario Budget 2010 (Bill 16)

On March 25, 2010, the Ontario government tabled Bill 16, *Creating the Foundation for Jobs and Growth Act 2010*. This Omnibus Legislation included the *Public Sector Compensation Restraint Act*, which put in place (effective March 25, 2010) a two-year freeze in the compensation structures in the Ontario Public Service and the broader public sector, including school boards, for all non-bargaining employees. The Wage Restraint Act also applies to trustees on school boards.

Although a list of employee groups exempt from the Wage Restraint Act is listed in the Act, the Act leaves the status of other groups unclear. The Public Sector Compensation Restraint Board has been established to adjudicate situations where disagreement on qualification arises between employees and employers.

OCSTA has advised member boards to seek legal advice in situations where the status of employees in regard to restraint is in doubt

Public Sector Compensation Restraint – Union Groups

In the March 25, 2010 budget announcement, the province also made clear that although current collective agreements would be honoured, the provincial fiscal plan provides no funding for incremental compensation increases for any future collective agreements. As agreements are renegotiated, the government

will work with transfer payment partners and bargaining agents to seek agreements of at least two years' duration that provide no net increase in compensation.

On July 20, the Minister of Finance announced the government's intention to begin consulting with these groups regarding how to reach agreements that meet provincial goals. These discussions will take place in three phases, divided by union groups.

OCSTA has been invited to send representation to Phase 2, August 30th to September 12, 2010, where CUPE is at the table, and Phase 3, September 20th to October 3rd, where all teacher unions in the education sector are at the table.

This Annual Year in Review is being published at the time of these consultations. A report on the outcome of these discussions will be shared directly with members.

Queen's Park Lobby Day

On March 24, 2010, representatives from OCSTA, the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA) and Bishops from Ontario's dioceses gathered at the Queen's Park Legislative Building to raise awareness about the value and benefit of Catholic education and to ask MPP's for their continued support of our system.

Teams of Catholic bishops, trustees and teachers met in person with many MPP's in what is believed to have been an unprecedented joint lobbying initiative launched by Catholic teachers, trustees and Bishops on behalf of Ontario's Catholic schools.

Our delegates participated in 27 meetings scheduled throughout the day and served as hosts for an evening reception that welcomed all MPP's and their staff.

While the House was in session, several members of the Catholic Education delegation team were seated in the visitors' gallery. The Speaker of the House, the Hon. Steve Peters; Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Hon. Rick Bartolucci; MPP Dave

Levac, MPP Rick Johnson, and PC Education Critic, MPP Elizabeth Witmer individually acknowledged Ontario's bishops, OCSTA and OECTA representatives and the importance of Catholic education in Ontario.



Labour Relations

Throughout the year OCSTA continued to address inquiries and issues from OCSTA member boards regarding technicalities stemming from the Provincial Framework for labour negotiations (2008-2012).

As the central reference point for Catholic school boards on this matter, OCSTA has been able to collect relevant data on a province-wide basis. This information has helped the Association to identify and respond to trends and issues in a timely and effective way.

In addition to ongoing dialogue with boards, OCSTA also participates in discussions with political and Ministry staff regarding policy issues under consideration, communications with the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association and conversations with counterparts at the Ontario Public School Boards Association.

In preparation for 2012 Bargaining, OCSTA developed a set of guidelines to serve as the basis for discussions involving OCSTA and the Ministry of Education. Those guidelines were approved by the Board of Directors and shared with all boards.

Early Learning Kindergarten Program Implementation

Following the announcement of the provincial Early Learning Program the Ministry of Education initiated provincial talks with trustee associations and unions in the spring of 2010. Those talks resulted in the establishment of a provincial labour agreement for Early Childhood Educators in the summer of 2010.

School Authorities

The summer 2009 announcement of the amalgamation of school authorities with school boards was a surprise to Ontario's education system.

While OCSTA would have appreciated a more consultative approach to the Ministry's decision making process on this issue, the

Association worked closely and diligently with school authorities and boards to address needs and concerns arising from amalgamation.

The OCSTA Board of Directors approved a motion to amend the Association Bylaw to allow former school authority trustees to remain as members of the Association until the municipal election in 2010.

In response to the requests and needs of member boards affected by this issue, OCSTA

- Requested that the Parry Sound Roman Catholic Separate School Authority be amalgamated with the Simcoe Muskoka CDSB instead of the Nipissing Parry Sound CDSB (this request was approved).
- Asked the Minister to pay special attention to the applications from CDSB's requesting an additional trustee in the next election. It was felt in many communities that additional representation would be needed to better serve amalgamated areas. A number of board requests were granted by the Minister.

Finance

Each autumn, OCSTA staff members prepare a Finance Brief and 2009 was no exception. This document reflects issues of concern to catholic schools boards. Its content is derived from submissions from member boards, current issues in the area of funding, as well as a detailed analysis of the budgets of all Catholic boards. The 2009 Finance Brief was provided to the Minister and the recommendations contained therein served as a basis of ongoing discussions with the Ministry.

There are two areas of success that are worthy of particular comment. The first relates to the additional funds secured from the Ministry for the Early Learning Program, in the amount of 25 million dollars annually to be spread among all school boards. Without this funding, boards would have had extreme difficulties in implementing the program.

The second area of success is with regards to the release of funds from the province

to cover the retroactive costs of the retroactive portion of the ruling issued by the Copyright Board of Canada. This amounted to approximately 18 million dollars to be spread among all school boards. This latter item has the potential to create financial challenges for school boards as the increase in the tariff is the responsibility of school boards and no additional funding is being provided.

The Wage Restraint Act, or Bill 16 (see the Legislative and Political Affairs section), has posed difficulties due to the manner in which the compensation freeze is being introduced. Although the funding continues for 2010-2011, the legislation was open to interpretation which has the potential of jeopardizing long established compensation structures among various employee groups within school boards. Impact on future collective bargaining is unclear.

The Ministry has set up a Technical Advisory group to examine the Administration and Governance allocation under the funding formula. OCSTA will have representation on this project as there could be major detrimental impact if an unsuitable or inequitable model is adopted by the province.

A very successful Finance Seminar was held in Thunder Bay on April 29th prior to the AGM. The keynote speaker was Dr. Livio DeMatteo, an economist from Lakehead University. In light of the recessionary environment that has existed since late 2008, there was a great deal of interest in the “big picture” as subsequent Government policy was based in part on the economic circumstances that exist.

Communications & Media Relations

In 2009-10, the Association began utilizing social media for the promotion of Catholic education.

That decision was made after careful consideration of the mandate and the Association’s communication goals at this current time.

OCSTA’s mandate is to promote and protect Catholic education in Ontario. Throughout the history of the Association that mandate has been served through OCSTA briefs, other publications, speaking engagements, news stories in major Ontario media, advertising and special events.

OCSTA’s Communication Goals and the Use of Social Media?

OCSTA’s communication goals are focused on the needs of our member boards. Each year, following an assessment of the current political and social landscape, the association produces materials and messaging to promote strong engagement and support for publicly funded Catholic schools in this province.

One of the defining characteristics of social media is that it provides a forum for the exchange of “user generated content” (content created by our audience – students, parents, teachers—the wider Catholic community). This content can consist of conversations, articles, pictures and video.

Social media is particularly effective for OCSTA because it offers an affordable method for engaging new audiences and promoting the value and distinctiveness of our schools to segments of our target audience that we might not have reached using more traditional strategies.

Social media “platforms” (websites like Facebook.com and Twitter.com) allow for easy sharing of this information between peers, friends, family and ultimately larger segments of our target audience.

One of the most popular social media platforms is Facebook. With over 500 million users worldwide this platform has great reach. Recent statistics show that approximately 4 million Ontarians are on Facebook.

OCSTA’s presence on Facebook can be found at:

<http://www.facebook.com/CatholicEducationInOntario> .

The Association is using its Facebook presence to inspire our supporters and to provide them with information about the success of our

schools so that they can better serve as vocal/active supporters of our system.

You can also find OCSTA on the next most popular social networking platform for Ontarians – Twitter. Our twitter ID is @catholicedu.

Through these emerging public interfaces we hope to reach a significant segment of the approximately 70% of Catholics who do not have children in our schools.

Media Relations

One of the most immediate and effective methods of reaching Ontario's Catholic community is through traditional media (print and broadcast).

OCSTA's media relations strategy is designed to be proactive in its outreach to media. By developing relationships with education/news reporters, editors and producers at Ontario's major media outlets, the Association helps to position itself as an authoritative voice on Catholic education.

When reacting to sudden issues in the news, OCSTA's key spokespeople focus on ensuring that the position of the Association is clearly articulated and that any opportunity to promote the attributes of Catholic education is utilized during the interview.

Last January, OCSTA's president called for a provincial response to the gap in special education funding affecting many boards across the province.

The Catholic Register published the following statements from the Association's president:

...The problem with special education funding (in 2009-2010) and that gap is that boards are forced to take money out of other areas to fund the special education needs of our students," [OCSTA President] Paula Peroni told The Catholic Register.

"I think it's time that the (education) minister and ministry try to find some significant solutions for special education," Peroni said.

Jan. 10, 2010, The Catholic Register.

When the Ministry announced its new Early Learning Program, OCSTA and all of the province's trustee associations had concerns about the relationship between boards and existing community providers for before and after school care.

That message was taken to the media.

... "School board associations have concerns about the [Early Learning Program legislation].

'It's a structural change,' said Kevin Kobus, senior policy advisor, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association. 'We would like a little more flexibility in those instances where a board has a good relationship with a community provider, as opposed to setting up a new infrastructure to deliver the program.'
Mar. 31, 2010, The Hamilton Spectator.

Statements delivered by OCSTA spokespersons throughout the year helped to inform print and broadcast audiences across the province about the distinctive priorities of Ontario's Catholic schools.

We continue to build relationships with the media and to encourage reporters to get the "Catholic" perspective on the education issues of the day. (See the Annual OCSTA School Boards Communicators' Seminar).

Professional Development

As the only organization offering professional development specifically for English-speaking Catholic school board trustees in Ontario, OCSTA works closely with the Association's Board of Directors and the wider membership to garner feedback and ideas on the types of professional development services and

resources needed for today's Catholic school board leaders.

OCSTA's current Professional Development program is comprised of interactive seminars, conferences and online resources to support the educational, faith development and networking priorities of our membership.

The current calendar for Professional Development events for OCSTA members includes:

- New Trustees' Seminar (every 4 years) - January
- Seminar for Chairs, Vice Chairs and Directors of Education -January
- Labour Relations Seminar - February (or fall)
- OCSTA/OCSBOA Finance Seminar - April
- AGM & Conference (Includes Spring Regional Meetings) –April
- Fall Regional Meetings (5 meetings held in regions across the province)
- Communicators' Fall Seminar

During the 2009-10 year, OCSTA events included presentations that addressed a variety of timely issues. Following is a sampling of some of the topics presented and discussed during this past year:

- **2009 Regional Meetings:** *Leadership with a Difference – The Catholic Factor*, presented by Noel Martin, Director of Catholic Education, OCSTA
- OCSTA Annual Seminar for Catholic School Board Communicators
- 2010 Seminar for Chairs Vice Chairs, and Directors of Education: *Forward Together in Hope*, keynote presentation by Fr. Norm Roberts, Dufferin-Peel CDSB
 - a) *Implementing Bill 177*, presented by Hugh Kelly, Miller Thomson, LLP
 - b) *Come Grow With Us: school board marketing presentation* by the Simcoe Muskoka CDSB

- c) *Ministry of Education's Early Learning Program*, presented by ADM, Jim Grieve
- d) *OCSTA Social Media Strategy for Catholic School Boards*, presented by Sharon McMillan, Co-ordinator Communications, OCSTA, and Leona Hobbs, Social Media Group

- 2010 OCSTA/OCSBOA Finance Seminar
 - a) *Ontario Economic Overview: Dr. Livio Di Matteo, Professor of Economics*, Lakehead University
 - b) *Education Finance - Ministry of Education Panel*
 - c) *Early Learning Program – Operational Issues – Panel presentation and discussion*
 - d) *Early Learning Program – The Trustee Perspective*, presented by Paula Peroni, OCSTA President.
- 2010 Annual General Meeting & Conference – Thunder Bay
 - a) *Catholic Education: Rejoicing in Hope*, keynote presentation by the Most Rev. Fred J. Colli, Bishop of Thunder Bay
 - b) *Partnering with Catholic Universities*, King's University College, University of Western Ontario
 - c) Address by the Minister of Education, The Hon. Leona Dombrowsky
 - d) *Ontario's Equity and Inclusion Strategy- Panel Presentation*
 - e) Andrew Coyne, National Editor, Maclean's Magazine

“Good News” Promotion

The Association’s “Good News in Catholic Schools” website highlight/blog continues to be a popular part of the website.

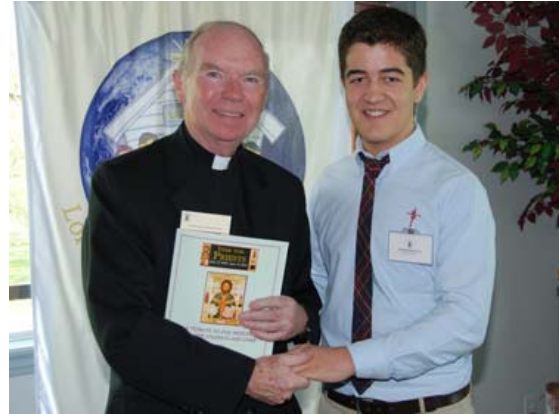
OCSTA receives numerous articles and pictures highlighting the social awareness, faith development and academic achievement that define our Catholic school communities.

Stories are featured on the OCSTA home page and archived in the OCSTA Blog (<http://www.ocsta.on.ca/ocsta-blog.aspx>).

Highlights from the OCSTA “Good News in Catholic Schools” Features (2009-2010):



Niagara Catholic DSB: Niagara Falls MPP Kim Craitor (back left), Director of Education John Crocco, Niagara Falls Trustee Ed Niewesteeg and Father Hennepin Principal, Mike Montague are joined, on January 12, by Kindergarten students at the school to announce the new ELP locations for Niagara Catholic.



Algonquin Lakeshore Catholic DSB: May 2010 - As a way of recognizing the tremendous contributions that the priests across our Board provide to strengthen Catholic education, ALCDSB hosted a "Year for Priests" Luncheon Celebration attended by clergy, principals, vice-principals and school board administration. The Board presented each priest and school administrator with a commemorative Year for Priests book of thanksgiving, student art and prose. The first copy of the book was presented to Archbishop Brendan O'Brien by Student Trustee Connor Rashotte.



Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic DSB: Styrofoam will soon be a thing of the past at St. Joseph-Scollard Hall Catholic Secondary School. Phasing out the environmentally harmful material is one of the many positive outcomes from the school’s first annual environmental symposium, *Everyone Can Make a Difference*, which took place on February 12, 2010.



Toronto Catholic DSB: On September 29th, over 6,000 students from the Toronto Catholic District School Board and the GTA gathered to listen to MP Justin Trudeau deliver a keynote presentation on "Peace and Harmony in our Communities and the World" during the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Peace Garden at Nathan Phillips Square.

This celebration was hosted by the Toronto CDSB and included special remarks from Archbishop Thomas Collins, Toronto CDSB Chair, Angela Kennedy, Minister of Education, Kathleen Wynne and Mayor of Toronto, David Miller. Attending the event as a special guest on behalf of OCSTA was Vice President, Nancy Kirby.



Waterloo Catholic DSB: The Mother Teresa Catholic School Pastoral Teams, staff and the "F.L.Y" (Faith Leading Youth) team came together in a creative way to ask for their community's support in responding to the crisis in Haiti. Students and staff were asked to donate a "loonie" (\$1.00) for the purchase of a "brick" (Lego brick) that to be used in the symbolic rebuilding of lives and communities in Haiti. The school's slogan for this effort is "If it takes a village to raise a child, a child can help raise a village".



Catholic DSB of Eastern Ontario: Sportsmanship, talent and fair play were on display as St. Joseph Catholic School in Gananoque hosted a five school Catholic Elementary Hockey round robin tournament on Thursday, January 28, 2010. The tournament proved to be a solid example of how Catholic Communities come together to support their schools, with parents coaching and turning out to cheer for their children.



Halton Catholic DSB: Carol Mitchell speaks to St. Dominic CES students about her son Corporal Robert Thomas James Mitchell who was killed during his deployment in Afghanistan, in October of 2006. . Also in photograph, from left to right are: Joan Gibbs, Representing Terence Young, MP, Alice Anne LeMay, Oakville Trustee, Halton CDSB, Pauline Houlahan, Oakville Trustee, Halton CDSB and Ellen Kushnik, Representing Kevin Flynn, MPP.

Awards

Each year the Association acknowledges outstanding service and leadership in Catholic education with the presentation of the esteemed Trustee Award of Merit.

The Association also recognizes a non-trustee who has made significant contributions to the betterment of Catholic education in Ontario with the Special Award of Merit.

Following are the 2010 OCSTA Award recipients:

Trustee Awards of Merit:



***Alice Anne LeMay, Trustee,
Halton Catholic District School Board***

Trustee LeMay was recognized for her 30 years of service to the Catholic school board community and her deep commitment to her faith, her work for special needs children and the preservation and promotion of Catholic education.



***Ronald Eamer, Trustee
Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario***

A trustee for 29 years, Trustee Eamer was recognized for his deep faith commitment, his outstanding dedication to the Catholic school system in Ontario and his work towards justice for all.

OCSTA Special Award:



***Mike Riley
Retired educator and former OCSTA Labour Relations
Co-ordinator***

Mike Riley was acknowledged for a career in Catholic education spanning 5 decades and for his pivotal and instrumental role in issues concerning Catholic school boards and labour relations.

Association Governance

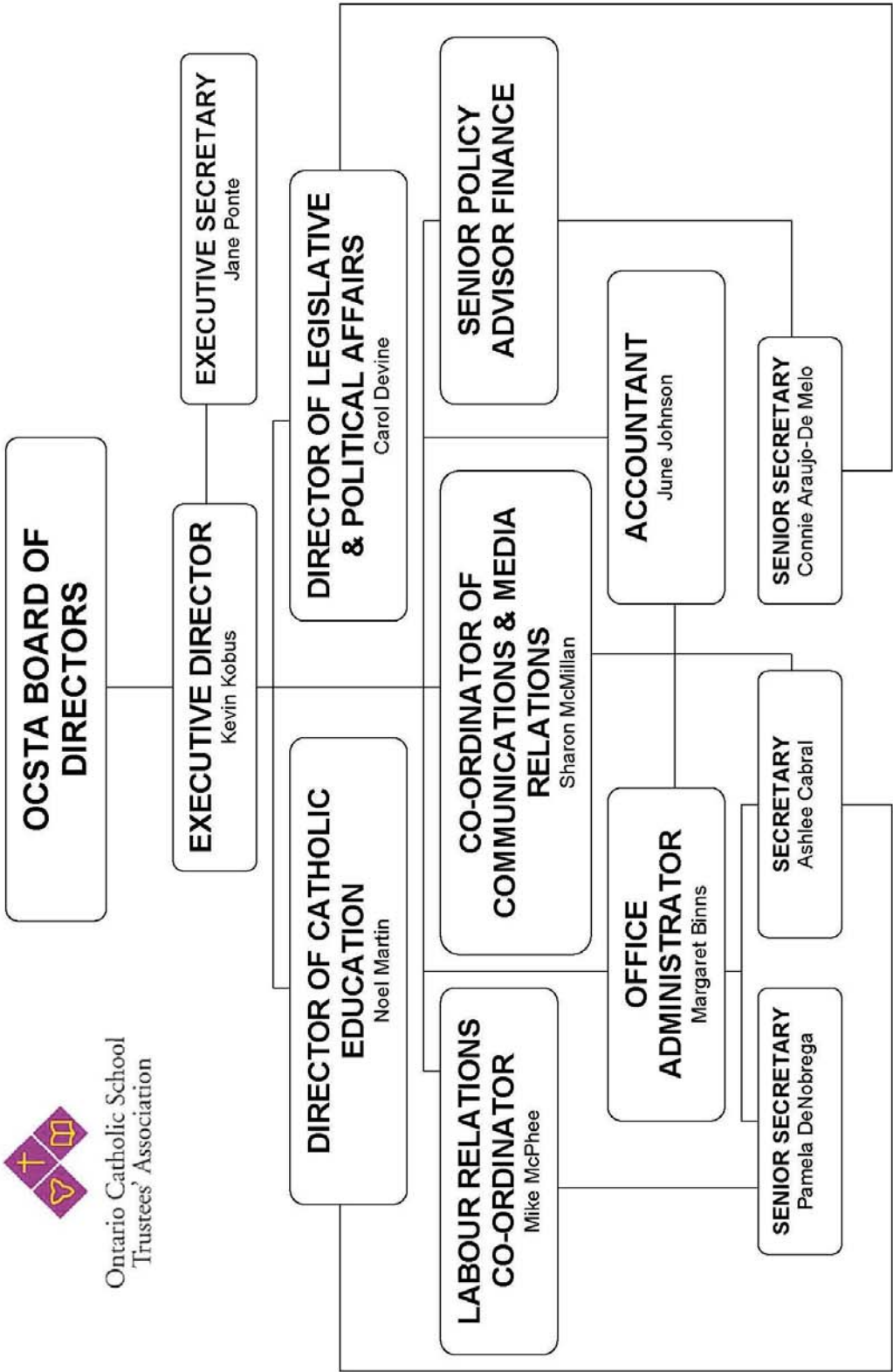
The Association is managed by a board of directors made up of 18 Catholic school trustees representing 12 regions from across Ontario.

OCSTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: **Nancy Kirby**, *Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario*
 Vice President: **Marino Gazzola**, *Wellington Catholic District School Board*
 Past President: **Paula Peroni**, *Sudbury Catholic District School Board*

Region No.	Director	Catholic School Board/s in Region
1	Colleen Landers <i>Northeastern CDSB</i>	Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board Northeastern Catholic District School Board Sudbury Catholic District School Board
2	Paul Landry <i>Kenora CDSB</i>	Kenora Catholic District School Board Northwest Catholic District School Board Superior North Catholic District School Board Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board
3 (at large)	Anne-Marie Fitzgerald <i>The Northwest CDSB</i>	Northern Regions 1 & 2
4	Cliff Casey <i>Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB</i>	Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board Waterloo Catholic District School Board Wellington Catholic District School Board
5	Linda Ward <i>St. Clair CDSB</i>	London District Catholic School Board St. Clair Catholic District School Board Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board
6	John Del Grande Catherine Leblanc-Miller	Toronto Catholic District School Board
7	Esther O'Toole Mario Pascucci	Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
8	Carol Cotton	York Catholic District School Board
9	Suzanne Youngs <i>Simcoe Muskoka CDSB</i>	Durham Catholic District School Board Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland & Clarington Catholic District School Board Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board
10	Andrew Bray <i>Renfrew County CDSB</i>	Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario Renfrew County Catholic District School Board
11	Kathy Burtnik , <i>Niagara CDSB</i> Pauline Houlahan , <i>Halton CDSB</i>	Halton Catholic District School Board Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board Niagara Catholic District School Board
12	Betty-Ann Kealey	Ottawa Catholic School Board

Executive Director: **Kevin Kobus**
 Chaplain: **Fr. Pat Fitzpatrick**
 OCCB Liaison: **Bishop Fred Colli**



Membership

OCSTA Member boards

Algonquin & Lakeshore CDSB

151 Dairy Avenue
Napanee, ON K7R 4B2
Tel: (613) 354-2255 Fax: (613) 354-0351
E-Mail: schmitt@alcdsb.on.ca
Website: www.alcdsb.on.ca
Michael Schmitt, Director of Education
Tom Dall, Chairperson

Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB

322 Fairview Drive
P.O. Box 217
Brantford, ON N3T 5M8
Tel: (519) 756-6505 Fax: (519) 756-9913
E-Mail: chorgan@bhncdsb.ca
Website: www.bhncdsb.ca
Cathy Horgan, Director of Education
June Szeman, Chairperson

Bruce-Grey CDSB

799-16th Avenue
Hanover, ON N4N 3A1
Tel: (519) 364-5820 Fax: (519) 364-5882
E-Mail: bruce_macpherson@bgcdsb.org
Website: www.bgcdsb.org
Bruce MacPherson, Director of Education
Norm Bethune, Chairperson

CDSB of Eastern Ontario

P.O. Box 2222
2755 Highway #43
Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0
Tel: (613) 258-7757 Fax: (613) 258-5067
E-Mail: bill.gartland@cdsbeo.on.ca
Website: www.cdsbeo.on.ca
Bill Gartland, Director of Education
Ron Eamer, Chairperson

Dufferin-Peel CDSB

40 Matheson Blvd. West
Mississauga, ON L5R 1C5
Tel: (905) 890-1221 Fax: (905) 890-7610
E-Mail: john.kostoff@dpcdsb.org
Website: www.dpcdsb.org
John Kostoff, Director of Education
Anna Abbruscato, Chairperson

Durham CDSB

650 Rossland Road West
Oshawa, ON L1J 7C4
Tel: (905) 576-6150 Fax: (905) 721-8239
E-Mail: paul.pulla@dcdsb.ca
Website: www.dcdsb.ca
Paul Pulla, Director of Education
Jim McCafferty, Chairperson

Halton CDSB

802 Drury Lane
P.O. Box 5308
Burlington, ON L7R 2Y2
Tel: (905) 632-6300 Fax: (905) 333-4661
E-Mail: pautlerm@hcdsb.org
Website: www.hcdsb.org
Michael Pautler, Director of Education
Bob Van de Vrande, Chairperson

Hamilton-Wentworth CDSB

90 Mulberry St.
P.O. Box 2012
Hamilton, ON L8N 3R9
Tel: (905) 525-2930 Fax: (905) 525-1724
E-Mail: barthm@hwcdsb.ca
Website: www.hwcdsb.ca
Patricia Amos, Director of Education
Pat Daly, Chairperson

Huron-Perth CDSB

87 Mill Street
P.O. Box 70
Dublin, ON N0K 1E0
Tel: (519) 345-2440 Fax: (519) 345-2449
E-Mail: martha_dutrizac@hpcdsb.edu.on.ca
Website: www.hpcdsb.edu.on.ca
Martha Dutrizac, Director of Education
Mike Miller, Chairperson

Huron-Superior CDSB

90 Ontario Avenue
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6C 6G7
Tel: (705) 945-5400 Fax: (705) 945-5405
E-Mail: jstadnyk@hscdsb.on.ca
Website: www.hscdsb.on.ca
John Stadnyk, Director of Education
Marchy Bruni, Chairperson

Kenora CDSB

200 First Street North
 Kenora, ON P9N 2K4
 Tel: (807) 468-9851 Fax: (807) 468-8094
 E-Mail: peikre@kcdsb.on.ca
 Website: www.kcdsb.on.ca

Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education
Darryl Michaluk, Chairperson

London DCSB

5200 Wellington Road South
 P.O. Box 5474
 London, ON N6A 4X5
 Tel: (519) 663-2088 Fax: (519) 663-0423
 E-Mail: w.derond@ldcsb.on.ca
 Website: www.ldcsb.on.ca

Wilma de Rond, Director of Education
Bill Hall, Chairperson

Niagara CDSB

427 Rice Road
 Welland, ON L3C 7C1
 Tel: (905) 735-0240 Fax: (905) 734-8828
 E-Mail: john.crocco@ncdsb.com
 Website: www.niagararc.com

John Crocco, Director of Education
Kathy Burtnik, Chairperson

Nipissing-Parry Sound CDSB

1000 High Street
 North Bay, ON P1B 6S6
 Tel: (705) 472-1201 Fax: (705) 472-0507
 E-Mail: bitontia@npsc.ca
 Website: www.npsc.ca

Anna Marie Bitonti, Director of Education
Barbara McCool, Chairperson

Northeastern CDSB

101 Spruce Street North
 Timmins, ON P4N 6M9
 Tel: (705) 268-7443 Fax: (705) 268-7499
 E-Mail: glenn.sheculski@ncdsb.on.ca
 Website: www.ncdsb.on.ca

Glenn Sheculski, Director of Education
Rick Brassard, Chairperson

Northwest CDSB

555 Flinders Avenue
 Fort Frances, ON P9A 3L2
 Tel: (807) 274-2931 Fax: (807) 274-8792
 E-Mail: mckelly@tncdsb.on.ca
 Website: www.tncdsb.on.ca

Mary-Catherine Kelly, Director of Education
Anne-Marie Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Ottawa CSB

570 West Hunt Club Road
 Nepean, ON K2G 3R4
 Tel: (613) 224-2222 Fax: (613) 224-5063
 E-Mail: Julian.hanlon@ottawacatholicschools.ca
 Website: www.ottawacatholicschools.ca

Julian Hanlon, Director of Education
Gordon Butler, Chairperson

Peterborough Victoria Northumberland & Clarington CDSB

1355 Lansdowne Street West
 Peterborough, ON K9J 7M3
 Tel: (705) 748-4861 Fax: (705) 748-9734
 E-Mail: jmackle@pvncdsb.on.ca
 Website: www.pvncdsb.on.ca

John Mackle, Director of Education
David Bernier, Chairperson

Renfrew County CDSB

499 Pembroke Street West
 Pembroke, ON K8A 5P1
 Tel: (613) 735-1031 Fax: (613) 735-2649
 E-Mail: marbour@rccdsb.edu.on.ca
 Website: www.rccdsb.edu.on.ca

Michele Arbour, Director of Education
Bob Schreader, Chairperson

Simcoe Muskoka CDSB

46 Alliance Boulevard
 Barrie, ON L4M 5K3
 Tel: (705) 722-3559 Fax: (705) 722-8865
 E-Mail: mokeefe@smcdsb.on.ca
 Website: www.smcdsb.on.ca

Michael O'Keefe, Director of Education
Jim Canning, Chairperson

St. Clair CDSB

420 Creek Street
Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4C4
Tel: (519) 627-6762 Fax: (519) 627-8230
E-Mail: paul.wubben@st-clair.net
Website: www.st-clair.net

Paul Wubben, Director of Education
Anita Labadie, Chairperson

Sudbury CDSB

165A D'Youville Street
Sudbury, ON P3C 5E7
Tel: (705) 673-5620 Fax: (705) 673-6670
E-Mail: Catherine.McCullough@sudburycatholicschools.ca
Website: www.scdsb.edu.on.ca

Catherine McCullough, Director of Education
Jody Cameron, Chairperson

Superior North CDSB

21 Simcoe Plaza
P.O. Box 610
Terrace Bay, ON P0T 2W0
Tel: (807) 825-3209 Fax: (807) 825-3885
E-Mail: vpichette@sncdsb.on.ca
Website: www.sncdsb.on.ca

Valerie Pichette, Director of Education
Sharon Arsenault, Chairperson

Thunder Bay CDSB

459 Victoria Avenue West
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 0A4
Tel: (807) 625-1555 Fax: (807) 623-2167
E-Mail: jdefaver@tbcdsb.on.ca
Website: <http://www.tbcdsb.on.ca>

John De Faveri, Director of Education
Bob Hupka, Chairperson

Toronto CDSB

80 Sheppard Ave. E.
Toronto, ON M2N 6E8
Tel: (416) 222-8282 Fax: (416) 229-5353
E-Mail: ann.perron@tcdsb.org
Website: www.tcdsb.org

Ann Perron, Director of Education
Ann Andrachuk, Acting Chairperson

Waterloo CDSB

35 Weber Street West, Unit A
P.O. Box 91116
Kitchener, ON N2G 4G2
Tel: (519) 578-3660 Fax: (519) 578-5291
E-Mail: roger.lawler@wcdsb.ca
Website: www.wcdsb.ca

Roger Lawler, Director of Education
Marion Thomson Howell, Chairperson

Wellington CDSB

75 Woolwich Street
P.O. Box 1298
Guelph, ON N1H 6N6
Tel: (519) 821-4600 Fax: (519) 824-3088
E-Mail: ddrone@wellingtoncdsb.ca
Website: <http://www.wellingtoncdsb.edu.on.ca>

Don Drone, Director of Education
Rev. Dennis J. Noon, Chairperson

Windsor-Essex CDSB

1325 California Ave.
Windsor, ON N9B 3Y6
Tel: (519) 253-2481 Fax: (519) 253-4819
E-Mail: director@wecdsb.on.ca
Website: www.wecdsb.on.ca

Paul Picard, Interim Director of Education
Fred Alexander, Chairperson

York CDSB

320 Bloomington Road West
Aurora, ON L4G 0M1
Tel: (416) 221-5051 (905) 713-1211
Fax: (905) 713-1272
E-Mail: susan.larosa@ycdsb.ca
Website: www.ycdsb.ca

Susan LaRosa, Director of Education
Elizabeth Crowe, Chairperson





Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

P.O. Box 2064, Suite 1804, 20 Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8
Tel: 416-932-9460 Fax: 416-932-9459 Email: ocsta@ocsta.on.ca Website: www.ocsta.on.ca