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Trustees' Association

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March 15, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Beverley Eckensweiler, President

**SUBJECT:** **Ministry of Education Announcement – March 15, 2019**

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Today the Minister of Education, the Hon. Lisa Thompson, delivered an announcement that addressed a number of initiatives under the government's new plan for education – "Education That Works for You."

Under this plan are changes to hiring practices, class sizes, cellphone use in classrooms, EQAO, Technology (Broadband), e-learning, GSN, student transportation funding changes and curriculum reform (new Health and Physical Education Curriculum – for September 2019, new Math Curriculum, and renewed focus on STEM, skilled trades and financial literacy).

Attached, for your reference, are the government backgrounders from today's announcement and relevant OCSTA submissions containing the Association's positions on topics referenced today.

**Note:**

Class Sizes

OCSTA was disappointed in the government's decision to maintain hard caps with respect to class sizes. In our submission to the government, we had indicated Catholic school boards' preference for the setting of class sizes based on system averages.

The Association is also concerned about the impact resulting from the significant increase in secondary school class sizes to 28.

OCSTA will be reviewing more detailed documents arising from this announcement and will keep boards informed.

**OCSTA Public Statement**

Today's announcement by Minister of Education, Lisa Thompson reflects the government's plan for education. The government's direction on class sizes creates some concern for Catholic School Boards. We had hoped that class sizes would be determined based on system averages and not hard caps which limit boards' abilities to make decisions based on local data. In addition, we are concerned about the impact of the significant increase in secondary class size caps to 28.

The government's plan for education includes various initiatives that we look forward to examining in detail.

Beverley Eckensweiler, President