



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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January 14, 2019

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Brian O'Sullivan, Director of Catholic Education

SUBJECT: OCSTA/Ontario Catholic University Course, Series B – Information

I wanted to share with you the good news that we will once again be offering the OCSTA/Ontario Catholic University Course Leadership Program. The response from your trustee colleagues has been good and we have some 15 trustees enrolled in the program. The trustees come from many jurisdictions across Ontario.

I am pleased to report that the University of St. Michael's College has agreed to be a partner in the course. Mark McGowan, well known to many of you, is a widely published author/speaker on Ontario Catholic education and furthermore, spent several years as an OCSTA trustee with the Durham Catholic District School Board. He will be the course instructor for the program. I also want to thank David Sylvester, new President of St. Michael's University, who has been a strong supporter of this OCSTA initiative.

We will only be operating one site for the OCSTA/Ontario Catholic University Course, which will be held at St. Michael's College. This outcome was reached as we only had enough trustees enrolled in the course to justify one university campus. However, since this is an internet-based course, your weekly lessons will arrive online and your responses will be sent to the instructor at St. Michael's via the internet for his feedback.

At our upcoming OCSTA provincial conference next week, Dr. Mark McGowan will be giving a presentation on Ontario Catholic education. Not only will this be a great presentation, but trustees attending this workshop will fulfill one lesson requirement for both the Series A and one course for the Series B OCSTA Trustee Leadership programs. Since we have now received enough trustee enrollees in the Series B OCSTA/Ontario Catholic University Course, we are happy to accept new trustee enrollees in the course after Mark McGowan's presentation at the conference.

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The practicum assignment in this course will provide you the opportunity to research an area of personal interest in your local school board (example. partnerships, Indigenous Education, Special Education issues, etc.) that you wish to pursue in your practicum project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions about the two programs. Once we have completed registration on the OCSTA/Ontario Catholic University Course, we will send you additional course information.

Please note, this course has been completely revised to reflect current issues in Catholic education. As well, it has been redesigned to have both mandatory readings and supplementary readings to allow trustees the chance to learn succinct information on Catholic education or to read deeper information in each lesson on topics of interest to them in Catholic education.

For your information, Series A of the OCSTA/Ontario Catholic University Course is currently available on the OCSTA website (www.ocsta.on.ca) and can be completed at any time.