



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

DATE: August 23, 2018

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Beverley Eckensweiler, President

SUBJECT: The Ontario Campaign to Support Toonies for Tuition

Ontario enjoys the privilege of a thriving, publicly funded Catholic school system, but as we know, that is not the case across Canada where in many provinces Catholic schools receive only partial or no public funding. For many years staff, students and parents at OCSTA member boards have raised money through various fundraising initiatives to support Toonies for Tuition – the charity established by the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association to provide aid to Catholic schools across Canada in need of funding. Given that Ontario is one of the largest publicly funded Catholic school systems in the world with approximately 600,000 students in our system, the OCSTA Board of Directors made a recent decision to launch a province-wide campaign to specifically support Toonies for Tuition during the 2018-19 school year.

We are calling this effort the **Ontario Campaign to Support Toonies for Tuition**, and we hope to set a record in the amount our Catholic school board communities can raise to help Catholic schools in other provinces. The campaign period will run from September 5, 2018, to the end of Catholic Education Week on May 10, 2019. After the conclusion of CEW 2019, we will announce the total amount raised by Catholic school boards for the Ontario Campaign to Support Toonies for Tuition.

We invite member school boards to join in this campaign. It is not mandatory for boards to join the campaign, nor do we want official school funds to be used in this collection. However, we think it is a wonderful idea to have our Ontario Catholic school community—staff, students, and parents—join together to collect funds to support our Catholic schools across the country.

Tuition Assistance to Students Attending Catholic Schools.

Once funds are collected, individuals complete an application to receive funding from the Toonies for Tuition collection from the CCSTA. These are reviewed, and decisions are made to grant funds by a panel at the CCSTA that includes representatives from its member provinces.

We thank you very much for supporting your fellow Catholic schools across Canada!

Box 2064, Suite 1804
20 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459
ocsta@ocsta.on.ca www.ocsta.on.ca

Beverley Eckensweiler, *President*
Michelle Griepsma, *Vice President*
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

The Funding of Catholic Schools across Canada

Funding for Catholic schools occurs differently in Canada because, constitutionally, education is a provincial jurisdiction. Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan enjoy fully government funded schools. In the Yukon and Northwest Territories, they receive government funding and they are members of the Alberta Catholic Schools Association (ACSTA).

Catholic schools receive government funding in places such as British Columbia and Manitoba, but these provinces provide only about half of the cost of Catholic school funding – namely, funding to pay school salaries, but neither the capital cost of building schools nor their repair.

Some provincial funding still exists in Quebec since 1998 when schools were re-organised along French-English lines, but Quebec is not a member of CCSTA. In the Maritime Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, there has not been provincial funding of Catholic schools for many decades. Prince Edward Island does not have Catholic schools.

As you may recall, Newfoundland and Labrador decided to end funding for Catholic schools in 1998-1999 but private Catholic schools do exist in that province.

Collection for the Toonies for Tuition Campaign

The timing of collection for the Ontario Campaign to Support Toonies for Tuition is at the discretion of each Catholic school board. In discussion with our partners at CCSTA, we would ask that you complete the following during Catholic Education Week 2019 (May 5-10, 2019):

1. Please collect donations on behalf of the campaign and submit these funds to the financial officer or bursar at your local school board office.
2. The collection of funds should be completed by May 13, 2019 (after Catholic Education Week 2019). The results will be communicated to Ontario Catholic boards soon thereafter.
3. Each school board is asked to send an Excel sheet listing the donation amount per school, and one cheque (made out to Toonies for Tuition) to:

Toonies for Tuition
 c/o Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association
 570 West Hunt Club Road
 Nepean, ON K2G 3R4

Please also send a copy of this information to OCSTA, attention: Ashlee Cabral.

No special forms are required.

For more information about Toonies for Tuition, please consult CCSTA's webpage at:

<http://www.ccsta.ca/en/initiatives-en/toonies>

For more information about the Ontario Campaign to Support Toonies for Tuition, please contact Ashlee Cabral at OCSTA (telephone: 416-932-9460, ext. 230; email: acabral@ocsta.on.ca).