



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

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Beverley Eckensweiler, *President*  
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May 2, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Beverley Eckensweiler, President

**SUBJECT:** **Ontario Government Consultation on Autism Programs**

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On May 1, 2019 the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and the Minister of Education announced a province wide consultation on improving autism services and programs, including supports offered by school boards. As Minister Macleod states:

“I invite all people across Ontario to take part in the largest consultation on autism in the history of the province. We are listening, and your advice will be invaluable in helping us best assess how we can build a needs-based approach to autism services, including through additional direct funding in Childhood Budgets.”

As it relates to school boards, the Minister of Education states:

“It is our top priority to ensure every student in this province feels safe and supported at school. We want to hear from Ontario families about how this government can continue to support both students and educators.”

**Format and Mandate**

The format of the consultation for members of the public will include telephone town hall meetings and an on-line questionnaire. In addition, submissions will be accepted by email. Once the information is gathered from these consultations and submissions, an advisory panel of educators, autism experts, parents and adults with autism will review the submissions and make recommendations to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services on a new, needs based assessment process to support children and youth with autism.

The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2019. For further information see:  
[www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/specialneeds/autism/consultations.aspx](http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/specialneeds/autism/consultations.aspx).

## **OCSTA Next Steps**

OCSTA will develop a submission in consultation with boards. If you have any concerns, questions or suggestions for the submission, please contact Steve Andrews at [sandrews@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:sandrews@ocsta.on.ca) or 416-932-9460, extention 224.