



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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April 9, 2019

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Beverley Eckensweiler, President

SUBJECT: **Consultation on Service Animals**

On April 3, 2019 Bill 48, *Safe and Supportive Classrooms Act*, received Royal Assent. Schedule 2 of that bill amends the Education Act to provide that the Minister may establish policies and guidelines respecting service animals in schools, and require boards to comply with the policies and guidelines, and to develop policies in accordance with those policies and guidelines.

On Monday April 8, 2019 the Ministry launched an on-line consultation process to seek input into the design of a set of guidelines for school boards in respect of service animals. Details can be found at the following link: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-service-animals-schools>. The government's intention with this consultation on service animals is to improve the process for families when making requests for service animals to accompany their children to school and understand what specific policies are needed to make this process more consistent and transparent.

As part of the consultation process, the Ministry is consulting boards on a draft Policy and Program Memorandum (attached).

Next Steps and Deadline for Input

OCSTA will review the draft PPM and its previous submission on Bill 48 to the standing committee on social policy and draft a further response to the draft PPM. Comments on the PPM are due on May 4, 2019.

We would encourage boards to forward any concerns or issues in respect of the draft PPM to Steve Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca.