



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

Box 2064, Suite 1804  
20 Eglinton Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8  
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459  
[ocsta@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:ocsta@ocsta.on.ca) [www.ocsta.on.ca](http://www.ocsta.on.ca)

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

January 27, 2020

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** OCSTA Board of Directors  
Chairs and Directors of Education

**FROM:** Stephen Andrews, Director of Legislative and Political Affairs

**SUBJECT:** **Ontario Human Rights Commission Inquiry Regarding Students with Reading Disabilities Update**

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Further to the Memorandum sent on December 12, 2019, OCSTA has received additional information from the Ontario Human Rights Commission regarding its' Right to Read inquiry. The Commission has formally requested that OCSTA participate in the public consultation portion of the inquiry. We have attached the notice from the Commission that describes the request. The Commission intends to have further town hall meetings throughout Ontario in the coming months. Some of these town halls will be held in northern Ontario and focus on reading issues related to Indigenous students. In addition, the Commission has developed a set of surveys targeting students and parents about their experiences regarding reading and literacy programs. Further surveys are now being developed for educators and other professionals.

### Next Steps

OCSTA will create a small working group of board staff with expertise in special education and curriculum issues as we develop a submission to be submitted to the Commission by February 21, 2020. We will also continue to monitor the public consultation process.

In addition, we would appreciate boards forwarding to us any relevant background information on policies, programs and services related to supporting students with learning disabilities that affect the acquisition of reading and literacy. **Please forward this information by February 10, 2020** to me at [sandrews@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:sandrews@ocsta.on.ca).

If boards wish to make a submission, please forward the submission to the following web address:

[https://ontariotbs.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2h2I29mZJVAAjZ3?RID=MLRP\\_bqguCsEk7tj5rlX&Q\\_CHL=email](https://ontariotbs.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2h2I29mZJVAAjZ3?RID=MLRP_bqguCsEk7tj5rlX&Q_CHL=email)

Each submission should reference the terms of reference for the inquiry that may be found here:

[www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-read-terms-reference](http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-read-terms-reference)

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [sandrews@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:sandrews@ocsta.on.ca) or 416-932-9460 ext. 224.

*Attachment*

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ontario Human Rights Commission <noreply@qemailserver.com>  
**Date:** January 21, 2020 at 1:41:55 PM EST  
**To:** OCSTA - Nick Milanetti <NMilanetti@ocsta.on.ca>  
**Subject: OHRC Right to Read Inquiry - Submission Form for Organizations**  
**Reply-To:** Ontario Human Rights Commission <legal@ohrc.on.ca>

We are writing to request your organization's participation in the Ontario Human Rights Commission's (OHRC) Right to Read public inquiry into human rights issues that affect students with reading disabilities.

There are three ways your organization can participate:

1. Promote the OHRC's surveys
2. Promote the OHRC's public hearings
3. Make a submission on behalf of the organization

Below, please find a flyer for the inquiry which includes information about how people can get involved. We would appreciate it if you could distribute this flyer through your networks/to your members so that as many people as possible can tell us about their experiences.

[Flyer \(EN\): Reading disabilities surveyinfoflyer 2019 en](#)  
[Flyer \(FR\): Reading disabilities surveyinfoflyer 2019 fr](#)

All information and updates on the inquiry can be found here: <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-read-public-inquiry-on-reading-disabilities>

### **Surveys**

The OHRC has received an overwhelmingly positive response to the launch of the inquiry. Hundreds of people have contacted us asking to share their experiences. In order to make it easier for them to do so, and for us to analyze their feedback, we have developed a survey through Qualtrics, a secure web-based survey tool. We have developed a [survey](#) for parents and students and are in the process of developing a separate survey for educators and other professionals. The surveys can be accessed on a computer or a smart phone.

### **Public Hearings**

We had our first public hearing in Brampton on January 14, 2020. Our next public hearings will take place in:

- London on January 29, 2020;
- Thunder Bay on February 25, 2020; and

- Ottawa on March 10, 2020.

We will post more information on location, times, and how people can participate on our website as soon as the details are finalized. We are planning community visits to Kenora, Hamilton and Barrie as well.

We will also be working with local Indigenous organizations to hold Indigenous-focused meetings in Kenora, Thunder Bay, London, Ottawa and other locations.

### **Submissions**

Organizations can provide an official submission to the Right to Read inquiry. Please consider the issues that are identified in the inquiry's Terms of Reference when making your submission. Please upload your organization's submission and any related resources or documents you want the OHRC to consider using this link: [Submission Form for Organizations](#)

We would appreciate receiving your organization's submission by February 21, 2020.

Please continue to engage with us on social media:

- via Twitter <https://twitter.com/OntHumanRights> or by including the hashtag #RightToRead in your tweets
- via Facebook <https://facebook.com/the.ohrc>, and
- via Instagram <https://.instagram.com/onhumanrights/>

Follow the link to opt out of future emails:  
[Click here to unsubscribe](#)