



July 2, 2025

The Honourable Paul Calandra, MPP  
Minister of Education  
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900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Email: [minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)

Dear Minister:

I am writing to you following the recent appointment of supervisors at the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB), reportedly due to "instances of mismanagement and poor decision-making that put its long-term financial health at risk."

As the legal bargaining agent for all teachers in Ontario's publicly funded Catholic schools under the *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act*, OECTA respectfully requests meaningful consultation with the government regarding the role our Association should play in any process that places the TCDSB, DPCDSB, or other Catholic school boards under supervision.

It is critical that the extraordinary powers being granted to supervisors do not override collective bargaining rights or existing collective agreements. In the case of the TCDSB, our local OECTA unit, the Toronto Elementary Catholic Teachers (TECT), continues to bargain the local terms of their collective agreement. To ensure the integrity and respect of the bargaining process, consultation with our Association during this period of supervision is of paramount importance.

Although it has yet to be referred to committee and proclaimed into law, Bill 33, *Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025*, as currently written, includes no provision clarifying whether the Minister's expanded authority can override collective agreements or the collective bargaining process. We strongly recommend that the primacy of collective agreements and the right to collective bargaining be explicitly protected in any enabling legislation. Furthermore, given a school board's legal obligations to OECTA, our Association must have a formal role in the process through which any Catholic school board is placed under supervision.

Moreover, we urge the government to reconsider this unprecedented and unjustified expansion of authority. Rather than attempting to shift responsibility for the consequences of chronic underfunding onto school boards, the government must prioritize investments in the resources and supports that students need – while also upholding the democratic principles on which Ontario's education system is built.

At their best, school boards serve as an important link between the voices of community members and the provincial government – ensuring that the unique needs of students, parents, teachers, and educators are reflected in local education policies and practices.

We recognize that accountability and transparency are shared goals. In particular, areas such as staffing and human resources reporting warrant focused attention, and our Association can play a constructive role in monitoring and understanding spending. These interests, however, do not require such a sweeping expansion of ministerial authority – an approach that risks broadly and unjustly undermining all boards and trustees.

We welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss this matter further and urge the Ministry to engage with us in the spirit of collaboration and respect for labour rights.

Sincerely,



René Jansen in de Wal  
President

RJ/vf

- c. Frank Benedetto, Supervisor, Toronto Catholic District School Board  
Rick Byers, Supervisor, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board  
Markus de Domenico, Chair, Toronto Catholic District School Board  
Luz de Rosario, Chair, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board  
Brendan Browne, Director of Education, Toronto Catholic District School Board  
Marianne Mazzorato, Director of Education, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board  
Lori Austin, President, Dufferin-Peel Elementary OECTA Unit  
Jennifer Pouw, President, Dufferin-Peel Secondary OECTA Unit  
Deborah Karam, President, Toronto Elementary Catholic Teachers' OECTA Unit  
Antonella Di Carlo, President, Toronto Secondary OECTA Unit