

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CPCO Statement on One Year Since First School Closures in Ontario

TORONTO: The Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO) has issued the following statement regarding the upcoming one year since Ontario's first school closures due to the pandemic.

"As we approach the one-year mark of the first school closures in Ontario, I would like to commend our Catholic Principals and Vice-Principals who have done a remarkable job overcoming a year filled with unforeseen challenges," said Blaine MacDougall, CPCO's President.

"This was a year of great personal sacrifice for everyone, including our Principals and Vice-Principals who saw their roles evolve into advocates and custodians of mental health for their students, staff and communities. They found themselves helping families deal with job loss, and supporting staff and students who live with the mental health impacts of isolation and unpredictability," said MacDougall. "Our school leaders would often set aside their own mental health and stress concerns to care for their staff and students."

"Principals and Vice-Principals also went to great lengths throughout the last year, pivoting between working with their local public health units to implementing new preventative measures, navigating staff shortages and enforcing new provincial regulations, in addition to their regular duties – and all on short notice."

"I would like to thank our Principals and Vice-Principals for continuously going above and beyond to provide some level of normalcy for our children during a challenging, stressful and unpredictable year. My hope is that, with vaccination efforts underway and warmer weather fast approaching, our administrators will finally be able to find the time and space to also focus on their own mental and physical health."

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CPCO represents 2,100 Catholic Principals and Vice-Principals, who lead over 1,300 schools in 29 Catholic district school boards in Ontario.

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