

July 6, 2021

Memorandum to: Chairs of District School Boards
Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities
Executive Director, Provincial and Demonstration Schools Branch

From: Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister of Education

Subject: New Provincial Anti-Sex Trafficking Policy/Program
Memorandum for School Boards, School Authorities, and Provincial and Demonstration Schools

Today, a new anti-sex trafficking policy framework for school boards, [Policy/Program Memorandum \(PPM\) no. 166: Keeping Students Safe: Policy Framework for School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols](#) was released.

The *Keeping Students Safe* policy – the first of its kind for an education sector in Canada – sets a strong foundation for Ontario school boards to build upon to create local anti-sex trafficking protocols. This new policy will ensure every school board has a plan with core components in place to protect students and empower school communities to play a key role in fighting sex trafficking and protecting children and youth from sexual exploitation. A link to the news release can be accessed [here](#).

The policy was informed by the Ministry of Education’s Anti-Human Trafficking Working Group, which brought together expertise in education, child welfare, human trafficking and policing. It included organizations and individuals who contributed the knowledge of survivors, Indigenous communities and organizations, Black and racialized communities, newcomers, and students.

This landmark PPM provides provincially funded school boards, school authorities, and provincial and demonstration schools with a strong policy foundation to develop and implement local anti-sex trafficking protocols.

This PPM provides direction to boards to:

- Engage with members of the school community (i.e. students, parents/guardians, survivors, etc.) and establish multi-sector partnerships to support a comprehensive response to anti-sex trafficking in their local communities.
- Be responsive to the diverse needs of students and the needs of local school communities and connect impacted students to supportive services.
- Establish common statements of principles upon which all school board protocols should be based.
- Develop culturally safe strategies to raise awareness and understanding of the urgency and complexity of combating sex trafficking.
- Focus attention on upstream factors that can reduce the vulnerability of students to being trafficked.
- Set expectations regarding accountability and evaluation.

School boards should develop their local protocols with the goal of having them in place by January 31, 2022.

The ministry is committed to supporting boards with the implementation of their local anti-sex trafficking protocols. An investment of \$2.4M is being dedicated to training resources and supports for school boards on how to recognize, identify, respond and prevent sex trafficking of children and youth.

The PPM sets out clear expectations of school boards on training. The school board's protocol must outline a process for providing ongoing training for school board employees, including teachers, administrators, and other school staff. In addition, the ministry has included anti-sex trafficking as one of the mandatory PA day topics for 2021-22. Several resources and tools will be shared with school boards in summer 2021, which will include materials for PA day training.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the safety, health, and well-being of students in the provincially funded education system.

Sincerely,

Hon. Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

c: President, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
President, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
President, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
Chair, Indigenous Trustees' Council, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
President, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Chair, Indigenous Trustees' Council, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
President, Conseil ontarien des directions de l'éducation de langue française (CODELF)
Secretary, Conseil ontarien des directions de l'éducation de langue française (CODELF)
President, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
President, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
President, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
President, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)
Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)
President of OSBCU, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
President, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
Executive Director, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
President, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
President, Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)
Executive Director, Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)
President, Ontario Student Trustees' Association – l'Association des élèves conseillers et conseillères de l'Ontario (OSTA-AECO)
Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Student Trustees' Association – l'Association des élèves conseillers et conseillères de l'Ontario (OSTA-AECO)
President, Regroupement des élèves conseillers francophones de l'Ontario (RECFO)
Coordinator, Regroupement des élèves conseillers francophones de l'Ontario (RECFO)

