

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 8, 2021

CPCO Statement on Graduation Ceremonies

TORONTO: In addition to the statement of June 4, 2021, the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO) would like to provide an additional comment on the Government of Ontario's announcements regarding graduation ceremonies.

"Every year, administrators look forward to organizing and participating in the celebratory closure that a graduation ceremony provides for students and their families. That is why Catholic Principals and Vice-Principals have been working diligently behind the scenes for weeks, if not months, coordinating with parents, students, staff and school boards to put in place plans that adhere to public health guidance," said CPCO President Blaine MacDougall.

"As has become commonplace during the pandemic, significant operational and logistical changes have now been announced, without consultation and without any prior notice," added MacDougall. "As a parent, I can appreciate the desire to have a bit of normalcy for our children. However, as an administrator who is ultimately responsible for the safety of students and staff, the time frame is unreasonable to safely organize multiple large gatherings whereby over 80 people may be in attendance simultaneously. At the end of the day, this was a difficult position that administrators were put in, as I know they would have gladly made preparations if given the appropriate time."

Safety for all has been paramount throughout this past year and CPCO will continue working with our partners to support administrators in their efforts to create a safe learning and working environment for all.

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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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