

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 30, 2021

## **CPCO Statement on Spring Break**

TORONTO: Please find below the statement from the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO) on the upcoming break in April.

"Principals and Vice-Principals have witnessed, first-hand, the impact of the pandemic on Ontario families, students and their staff, and the significant toll it has had on their lives. From increased workloads to ongoing pivoting, lack of staff and the constant concern for everyone's safety, health and wellness — the role of administrators has evolved dramatically this past year. It has expanded to include being mental health advocates and counsellors, providing supports for staff, students and families in the community," said Blaine MacDougall, CPCO's President.

"It is from this perspective that, while recognizing the importance of classroom learning, we are steadfast in our belief that the upcoming spring break is needed. The pandemic has required all of us to make ongoing sacrifices and we are concerned that, without a break, the mental health of families, students and education workers will continue to be impacted. This impact may possibly include more staff taking needed time off due to fatigue and concern of rising case counts, which will in turn place our administrators in positions where finding replacements and coverage will be extremely challenging."

"Staff have worked hard through the March Break with the promise of a Spring Break in April. Principals and Vice-Principals have gone well beyond what has been asked of them throughout this pandemic to keep students and staff safe, while providing the highest possible quality of education under very difficult circumstances. If this Spring Break gets cancelled, we will be very concerned with the ability of our administrators to keep pace with the ongoing demands that they face every day."

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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.*

**For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:**

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