

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 7, 2021

CPCO Statement on Strategy to Protect Students from Sex-Trafficking

TORONTO: The Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario applauds the Ministry of Education for introducing a new framework to protect children from sexual exploitation.

"Today's announcement highlights the reality that human trafficking and child exploitation are, unfortunately, still very present in our communities," said CPCO President Antonella Rubino. "Providing schools with the necessary resources and training is an effective way to ensure that administrators are better-positioned to work with staff and students to raise awareness and provide support for those at risk of being exploited. We are in full support of the government's efforts to educate all staff to prevent the victimization of children."

"As administrators and community leaders, Catholic Principals are eager to work with our school board partners to develop and implement new anti-human trafficking plans and protocols," added Rubino. "We welcome our role as a constructive partner and leader in the efforts to protect students, raise awareness, and create safer communities that prevent children from becoming victims of human trafficking."

CPCO will continue working with our partners to support Catholic administrators in their efforts to create a safer community for all students, staff and families.

- 30 -

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, please contact:

Hannah Yakobi

Marketing & Communications Manager

Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)

hyakobi@cpco.on.ca

416-948-2726 (cell)