

CPCO's Statement on the Ontario 2021 Budget

TORONTO: The Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO) has issued the following statement regarding the Government of Ontario's 2021 Budget.

"With the provincial budget's focus on protecting people's health and the economy, CPCO expects that, as additional details are made available in the coming weeks, investments in education will continue to be a pillar of the government's recovery plan," said Blaine MacDougall, CPCO President.

"While the 2021 Budget provides for investment in programs, such as the Specialist High Skills Major program allowing students to gain relevant job skills and certifications, we are eager to understand the details of ongoing support for the education system that we anticipate will be contained in the upcoming Grants for Student Needs (GSN) program," he added. "As the province continues investing in online learning – through increased supports for digital curriculum and providing direct supports to families – Principals and Vice-Principals must be involved in all aspects of planning to ensure the successful deployment of these initiatives. As we experienced throughout the pandemic, Principals and Vice-Principals play a vital role in ensuring that virtual programming is accessible to students and adapted to best reflect the needs of our communities."

"As administrators, we are focused on safety and student success as we complete this academic year, while putting considerable effort towards planning for the next school year. Continued investments in Personal Protective Equipment will provide some reassurance to administrators that critical supports will be available to safely reopen our schools in September."

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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 request an interview, please contact:

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