



**ONTARIO PUBLIC  
SCHOOL BOARDS'  
ASSOCIATION**

**Leading Education's Advocates**

**Ontario Public School Boards' Association**  
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Cathy Abraham  
President

W.R. (Rusty) Hick  
Executive Director

December 13, 2019

Dear MPP Mitas,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as special adviser on bullying prevention to Minister of Education Stephen Lecce and thank you as well for attending the PC caucus meeting with school board trustees at our recent Advocacy Day on November 25.

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) represents more than 1.3 million students, or nearly 70% of the entire K-12 student population, including all 31 English public school boards, as well as 10 school authorities. Collectively, this makes our organization the number one stakeholder voice for education in Ontario. We advocate for public education every day, and know we need to work together with the government to shape our education system to better serve all students and families in Ontario. Our Association has been represented on a number of key government working tables and our work has resulted in many successful outcomes over our nearly 32-year history.

Advocating for the Whole Child and Student Well-being is a key priority for our Association. We believe that improving student achievement and student engagement is directly linked to ensuring we work collaboratively to support the social, emotional, mental and physical well-being of all children and youth in our increasingly complex world. We look forward to sharing current practices and supports that would provide valuable insight to your work on the anti-bullying file.

OPSBA's standing committees, the Education Program and Policy Development Work Teams, are composed of elected school board trustees from every region in the province. As part of our outreach efforts, we would like to invite you to meet with our Work Teams at a future meeting in the new year. This meeting would provide you with an opportunity to discuss provincial anti-bullying strategies. Our staff will follow up with yours to find a date that works.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly for consultation or advice in the weeks and months ahead.

Most sincerely,

Cathy Abraham  
President

Rusty Hick  
Executive Director