

## Ministry of Health

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## Ministère de la Santé

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August 24, 2021

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mr. Stéphane Perrault, Chief Electoral Officer of Canada

**RE:** Chief Medical Officer of Health's recommendations on using schools in Ontario for election purposes

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Dear Mr. Perrault,

Over the past year the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) has been working with Elections Canada (EC) to provide advice for election processes and as a point of contact across other ministries (e.g., Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility and Ministry of Long-Term Care).

With respect to EC's inquiry of using schools for election-related purposes, such as polling stations, I recommend that only schools that meet the following conditions be considered by school boards and EC for EC to establish polling stations in schools, particularly in elementary schools:

- Direct path to location of polling station;
- There must be separate entrance(s) and exit(s); and
- Must be able to keep students (including children in licensed child care centres co-located in schools) and staff separate from the public.

I look forward to continued dialogue and planning.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kieran Moore, MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP, MPH, DTM&H, FRCPC Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health

Ontario Ministry of Health

- And

c: Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education Greg Essensa, Chief Electoral Officer, Elections Ontario