



REPORT TO

AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ENROLMENT AUDITS OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:24-25

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Douglas de Souza, Coordinator of Grants, Revenue & Ministry Reporting Paul De Cock, Comptroller of Business Services and Finance		
INFORMATION REPORT		

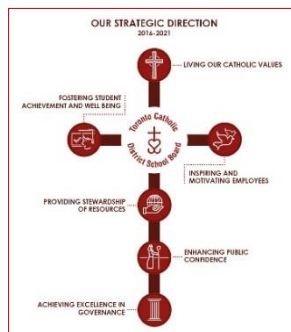
Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



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Chief Financial Officer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A recent report by the Ministry of Education regarding enrolment audit findings (Appendix A) may affect the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

Credit courses must be 110 hours, and currently, the Monsignor Fraser programs offers less than 90 hours (83 to 87 hours). Consequently, a Monsignor Fraser Program student given the current course hour load could be reduced from a 1.0 full time equivalent (FTE) to a .75 FTE, which generates a Grant for Student Needs (GSN) reduction of (\$2-2.4M).

Mary Ward Catholic School's Independent Learning Program records and reports students on a regular register and claims them based on 6 credits for 1 FTE. The Ministry is currently reviewing all alternative programs and their program delivery models. If the TCDSB is required to put Mary Ward on an independent Study register, a full time student would need to have 7.5 credits. While most Mary Ward students do take the full 8 courses per year, there are some students in Grade 12 that take 7 credits or less. This may change a 1 FTE at to 0.8 FTE, and consequently, generating a GSN reduction.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 2 hours

B. PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to bring to your attention two key findings of the Ministry of Educations Enrolment Audits of Alternative Programs as they may negatively affect Toronto Catholic DSB.
2. One of the key findings was that many alternative programs were structured in a manner that did not provide 110 hours for a full credit and or 55 hours for a half credit. Significant adjustments were made to recalculate the FTE of pupils in these programs at other school boards. Msgr. Fraser is one of these programs that would be at risk as they provide under 90 hours under the current Quad Structure (83-87 hours).
3. Independent Study should be reported on an independent study register. The distinguishing factor between the independent study register and the day school register is that the number of credits required for a full ADE (6 credits for regular day school and 7.5 credits for independent study). The Ministry approved the Mary Ward Independent Study program in 1999 (20 years ago).

The ministry is currently reviewing alternative programs and alternative program delivery internally. The ministry has established an internal alternative program workgroup. This group's work may affect how TCDSB reports the Mary Ward program and the funding received for Mary Ward.

C. BACKGROUND

1. The Ministry of Education over the last 3 years have been auditing Alternative programs and alternative program delivery. TCDSB was one of the first to have its Monsignor Fraser Alternative program audited. The key finding in that audit was that the program had an instructional day of 210 hours which is less than 300 Minutes (5 hours) of instruction available for compulsory age students. They also found a few students incorrectly documented resulting in an adjustment of \$67K in GSN's. Recent Ministry enrolment audits have identified significant findings and adjustments at other school boards. If the Monsignor Fraser Program is audited again, the result may reduce funding because the mandatory hours of instruction was not achieved. Currently, the credit course at Monsignor Fraser ranges from at 83 to 87 hours. A Monsignor Fraser student under the current course hours could be adjusted from a 1.0 FTE to a 0.75 F.T.E or a GSN grant reduction of \$2M to \$2.4M.
2. In the last year Ministry staff have contacted TCDSB about the Mary Ward enrolment registers and how students are marked for attendance purposes for the Program. TCDSB has a Ministry of Education letter dated back to 1999 approving the Mary Ward program and the program delivery model. However, it has been 20 years and the new working group on alternative education programs may have a different view.

D. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the information of Audit Committee.