

May 20th, 2020.

Dear SEAC Chair Nancy Crawford and members of the TCDSB Special Education Advisory Committee,

Please accept this letter as formal notification of my resignation from the Toronto Catholic District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee. My last day as the official SEAC representative for the Toronto Chapter of Autism Ontario will be June 30th 2020.

This was not an easy decision to make, and I appreciate the lasting friendships that were made during this time and that I take with me. The many opportunities I've had during my term of service to this community to get to know so many families and share their unique and often similar stories in helping them support the best possible outcomes for their children on the spectrum has been a precious gift. I wish you all the very best as you champion this journey in advocacy for and with your children; be confident as you continue to cross those valleys and climb those mountains towards reaching fulfilling and successful futures for them.

On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Pope Francis told the world's faithful to "have the courage to give a voice to those who are discriminated against because of their disability, because unfortunately in some countries, even today, it is difficult to recognize them as persons of equal dignity, as brothers and sisters in humanity". This committee and all members who sit around its table are blessed with the opportunity to fulfill this promise.

I have truly valued this experience and the knowledge I have gained over the past 8 years. It has been a pleasure working with all of you and with the entire SEAC team; past and present.

I will be continuing on as a mentor and resource to the Toronto Chapter of Autism Ontario in order to assist with a smooth transition, completion of ongoing advocacy goals and with seamless representation at the Toronto Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee table.

Sincerely Yours,

Sandra Mastronardi