



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

## RECOMMENDATION FOR RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM TCDSB'S COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

*“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? Luke 15:4*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
November 3, 2020	November 19, 2020	<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>
Peter Aguiar – Superintendent of Student Achievement and Wellbeing and International Education Alex Mazzucco – Program Coordinator – Continuing Education and International Education Department Stefan Barrans – Coordinator – Continuing Education and International Education Department		

### RECOMMENDATION REPORT

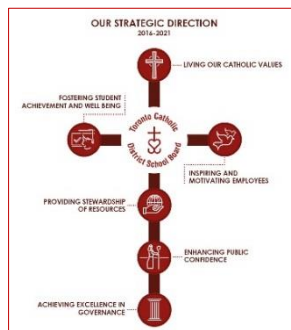
#### **Vision:**

*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.*



Brendan Browne, PhD  
Director of Education

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Associate Director  
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Associate Director of Facilities,  
Business and Community  
Development, and  
Chief Financial Officer

## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

It is recommended that the Toronto Catholic District School Board pass a motion to reaffirm our commitment to our International Education Program, thus fulfilling the requirements of the Federal and Provincial governments in order to continue to be able to recruit and place International Students at the TCDSB.

## **B. PURPOSE**

The Federal and Provincial Governments require a Board motion indicating that the TCDSB will continue to recruit and accept International Students, as per the conditions outlined in the attached *Attestation for School Boards and Private School – Public Health Institutional Readiness Requirements for International Students in Ontario* (Appendix 1) and supporting appendices (Appendix 2). This report summarizes the readiness of the TCDSB and the International Education Department to safely welcome international students into our schools and local communities. Requirements of Federal Public Health and the Ontario Ministry of Education are clarified and the TCDSB plans and protocols supporting the safe arrival of our international students are attached.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on international education around the world. The economic and psychological impact on families has reduced the level of engagement in international education globally. Travel restrictions related to border closures and reduced flight availability have limited the ability for international students to enter our country. In Canada, borders closed to travel March 18, 2020. International students with study permits approved prior to March 18 were provided an exemption. Students with permits issued after this date are currently not eligible to enter the country.
2. As of October 20, 2020, the Federal Government restricted access to International Students to Ontario, British Columbia and Nova Scotia.
3. Due to the travel uncertainty, approximately one-third of our 450 returning students remained in Canada over the summer. Currently, we have 300 new or

returning international students registered for studies in September. Of these students, 180 will be engaging in distance learning from their home country. The Ministry of Education has permitted school districts to issue OENs (Ontario Education Numbers) to students new to our school system who are beginning their learning in their home country. The goal is to have these students travel to Canada as soon as borders open. If travel remains restricted, the Ministry will allow these students to complete a full year of studies--earning credits through distance learning from their home country if necessary.

4. Currently, educational institutions in Ontario are not allowed to physically accept International Students until they have completed a mandated *Attestation for School Boards and Private School – Public Health Institutional Readiness Requirements for International Students in Ontario* (Appendix 1). The completed Attestation and supporting appendices (Appendix 2), will be forwarded to the Ministry of Education. It will be reviewed jointly by the Ministry and Federal health authorities to determine the TCDSB's readiness to safely accept and support International Students. Once approved, International Students currently enrolled in the TCDSB, but studying from their home country, would be able to travel to Ontario. This approval would also extend to new International Students. At least 150 new applicants to our system for September cancelled or deferred their studies due to border closures, study permit delays, and the pandemic. The Attestation, once approved, would remove some of the barriers they have been facing.

#### **D. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

1. Provide a pre-arrival attestation and guidelines for students and parents consistent with the requirements in the attestation. Students must quarantine for 14 days and be tested for COVID-19 prior to being allowed to attend a TCDSB school. This requirement is necessary for both International and local students.
2. TCDSB staff will review all Quarantine Plans prior to departure. Assistance will be provided by an approved TCDSB vendor should the parents require support or if the plan provided does not meet Federal and Provincial requirements. All plans will be uploaded on the ArriveCan App as per Federal

requirements.

3. The TPH re-entry attestation plan will be completed and submitted to the day school prior to students being allowed to attend school. The plan attestation will verify that the 14-day quarantine was followed and proof of a negative COVID-19 test will be included.
4. Students, parents and custodians will be provided with an overview of the TCDSB Opening Action Plan and a documentation to support Student Wellbeing/Mental Health. International Education staff will be available during the quarantine period and to support students as they transition back to school.

## **E. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the following motion:

“The TCDSB reaffirms its commitment to continuing its International Education program in compliance with the guidelines for accepting international students that have been established by the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Canadian Federal Government.”