Toronto Catholic District School Board

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Joint Letter re: Motion MM 28.9

Mayor Tory and City Councillors,

We are writing this joint letter in support of Councillor Wong-Tam's motion to Cancel City of Toronto Advertisement in the Corriere Canadese newspaper.

After much misinformation in the Corriere Canadese we call on the representatives of the City of Toronto to take a stand against homophobia and transphobia. This abhorrent discourse should never be normalized or sanctioned by our city.

The key reason why we support and encourage this action is the focus over the past year the Corriere Canadese has had of writing homophobic and transphobic articles that attack our students, staff and trustees. These articles are well documented in a recent PressProgress article: https://pressprogress.ca/former-liberal-cabinet-minister-joe-volpe-condemns-lgbqt2-lobby-in-italian-canadian-local-newspaper/, including calling the LGBTQ lobby "probably the most intolerant organization around.", as well as demeaning a local LGBTQ peer counselling service (https://www.corriere.ca/english-articles/tcdsb-website-hosts-pornographic-site-defended-by-trustees/).

These articles spread homophobia & transphobia and due to Corriere's unending focus on the Toronto Catholic District School Board, they have the effect of intimidating and further marginalizing our LGBTQ students, as well as intimidating our staff who do not want to be the focus of a homophobic article. Our staff have received threats as a direct result of Joe Volpe's homophobic reporting.

Toronto has shown it is serious in upholding the Ontario Human Rights Code. Passing this motion will ensure taxpayer funds are not used to support a newspaper that is in the business of writing homophobic and transphobic articles. We implore you to stand up for our LGBTQ students and the LGBTQ community at large by supporting this motion.

We urge you to take a stand against the outdated arguments and vile homophobia and transphobia expressed in the Corriere Canadese, pull their ads and support LGBTQ+ students and families in our city.