

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing as an Ontario taxpayer. I SUPPORT the motion proposed to raise the Pride Flag.

I understand a “debate” is scheduled for this week on whether or not TCDSB will recognize Pride Month and raise the Pride Flag. In 2021, this should not be a debate. We know that our 2SLGBTQ+ are at higher risk of discrimination and violence, both inside and outside of our schools. We also know that due to this, individuals who identify as 2SLGBTQ+ are at higher risk of suicide attempts and completion, as well as a compilation of other mental health concerns.

A Catholic faith does not give us the right to hide behind hate and bigotry. All students deserve to attend a school in a safe and supportive environment. Those within the 2SLGBTQ+ community have told us that the Pride Flag is an important symbol, identifying safe, inclusive places. Toronto Catholic schools should be no less welcoming and inclusive than any other school located in Toronto, or elsewhere.

I implore you to make the right decision on Thursday night. I implore you to look inside yourselves and instead of finding excuses as to why you won't support this motion, find the courage to put your students first and #FlyTheFlag!

Sincerely,

Alexandra Power