



# Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Membership Application

**Individuals must complete the following application form for consideration to be a member of TCDSB Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).**

Membership role being applied for:  Community Member *Complete Parts A,B,D,E* OR  Local Associations Membership *Complete Parts A,B,C,D,E*

## PART A

**Qualifications for Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Community or Local Association member:**

- a) Canadian Citizen and minimum of 18 years old. O. Reg. 464/97, s. 5.1;
- b) Resident of City of Toronto. O. Reg. 464/97, s. 5.1;
- c) Separate School Supporter. O. Reg. 464/97, s. 5.1;
- d) Not employed by the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB). O. Reg. 464/97, s. 5.3;
- e) **For a local association membership only:** "Local Association" means an association or organization of parents that operates locally within the area of jurisdiction of the Board and that is affiliated with an association or organization that is not an association or organization of professional educators but that is incorporated and operates throughout Ontario to further the interests and well-being of one or more groups of exceptional children or adults. O. Reg. 464/97, s. 1.

- Yes, I meet the qualifications listed above. *Proceed with application.*
- No, I do not meet all the qualifications listed above. *Do not proceed with application.*

## PART B

Surname:	Da Costa	First Name:	Michelle
Main Contact Number:			
Home Address			
E-mail address:			
Child(ren)'s School(s):			

## PART C

Organization Name:	OPACC (Ontario Parent's Advocating for Children with Cancer)
Organization Address:	524 Bayfield St. N. <sup>P.O. Box 20005</sup> , Barrie, ON L4M 5E9
Main Contact Person:	Sarai Porretta
Main Contact Number:	(705) 828-7965



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## PART D

1. To which other TCDSB parent organizations do you presently belong:

CSAC

CPIC

TAPCE

None

2. List the community organizations/groups in which you are currently a member and provide a brief outline of your role within each of these organizations:

Parent Liaison (OPACC) Providing free, peer-to-peer psychosocial, in-hospital and virtual support to Ontario Childhood Cancer families.  
Parent Ambassador - Sick Kids Hospital - Parent/Patient rep.

3. Briefly outline the reasons why you are interested in being a member of this committee:

To advocate and bring support and attention of children with special needs, also who have been affected by life threatening illnesses.

4. Please identify and explain any related personal and/or professional experiences which you have that would assist you in the role of a committee member:

My own child [redacted] has since required daily school support for special needs.

5. Would your personal and/or professional experiences place you in a **Conflict of Interest** in regards to being a member of this Committee:

NO

YES Please explain:

6. Have you been selected to be part of another TCDSB Committee within the past 12 months?

NO

YES Please specify the Committee:

7. Do you support the Catholic Mission/Vision of TCDSB?

YES!

8. Provide any additional comments to be considered in regards to your participation on this committee:

I feel and believe my advocacy work and own personal journey, brings with it much needed feedback crucial to children of special needs.



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### PART E

Completed membership application form and request for nomination letter submitted by  
(Applicant to enter full name in the grey shaded box) to the attention of the Director of Education and  
the SEAC Chair via email to:

[Brendan.Browne@tcdsb.org](mailto:Brendan.Browne@tcdsb.org) & [George.Wedge@tcdsb.org](mailto:George.Wedge@tcdsb.org)

Date:

Mar. 24 / 21

Applicant's Signature:

Michelle DeCoteau

### Important

- Local Association Membership Application **must be accompanied** by a formal nomination letter made in writing by the executive of the local chapter to the Director of Education/Secretary of the board no later than October 31<sup>st</sup> in the year of the Board's election. *TCDSB Policy A.23 S1 (c)*
- The appointment of members will be made at the Inaugural Meeting of the Board. *TCDSB Policy A.23 S1 (e)*
- If requests for membership occur during the term of office, then a recommendation will be made to the Board through SEAC. *TCDSB Policy A.23 S1 (g)*

For further details on the Policy for the Special Education Advisory Committee, please refer to Policy No. A23 on the TCDSB website at:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/Policies/Documents/A23.pdf>



March 23, 2021

Toronto Catholic District School Board  
Attn: Dr. Brendan Browne, Director of Education  
80 Sheppard Ave. E.  
Toronto, ON M2N 6E8

Dear Mr. Browne,

Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer (OPACC), a registered charity whose mission is to be the parent voice for families with children diagnosed with cancer across Ontario, would like to nominate the following individual to serve as our representative in the Toronto Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC):

Michelle Da Costa, OPACC Parent Liaison and parent of a childhood cancer survivor. Michelle volunteered with OPACC prior to being hired as one of our Parent Liaisons in 2017. In this role, she assists families of children with cancer both virtually and at The Hospital for Sick Children ("SickKids") in Toronto, working as a guide post for families to empower them and offer supports as needed from a non-medical view. She works in collaboration with treatment centres, community organizations, and schools to ensure broad-based support for families. Michelle has also served as a SickKids Parent Ambassador and is an advocate for special causes. As a parent of a special needs child herself, this is a matter that is very near and dear to her on both a professional and personal level.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 705-828-7965 or via email at [admin@opacc.org](mailto:admin@opacc.org)

Sincerely,

Sarai Porretta  
Administrator

Helping families of children with cancer with the here and now!  
Charitable registration #846324168RR0001  
524 Bayfield Street North, P.O. Box 20005, Barrie, ON L4M 5E9  
Email: [info@opacc.org](mailto:info@opacc.org)  
Web: [www.opacc.org](http://www.opacc.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/OPACC](http://www.facebook.com/OPACC)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/OpaccOrg](http://twitter.com/OpaccOrg)  
Tel: (705) 828-7965