



May 26, 2021

The Honorable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
Mowat Block, 22nd Floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Lecce,

Re: Support for Bill 172 An Act in Relation to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCDSB) endorses Bill 172, the Education Statute Law Amendment Act regarding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). The BHNCDSB in full support of a recommendation brought forward to the Board of Trustees by the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) on May 25, 2021 to provide correspondence in support of the Bill.

Bill 172 will require all boards of education throughout Ontario to develop policies and guidelines with respect to FASD. Ontario Teacher College's and Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs shall be required to provide training with respect to suspected or diagnosed FASD.

There is a high prevalence of FASD among children in Ontario. This diagnosis impacts their ability to attend school due to a combination of deficits associated with the diagnosis, along with their capacity to understand the expectations and demands in an academic environment. Education staff need to be taught about the early signs and symptoms of FASD and how to provide appropriate accommodations in the classroom. Furthermore, the students will greatly benefit by promoting the awareness and understanding of FASD in teacher, early childhood educator and other educator programs, along with school boards developing policies and guidelines with respect to FASD.

The BHNCDSB asks that you acknowledge our support for Bill 172 as it will help our students experience success not only in their classrooms, but also within their communities.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Lauren Freeborn, Chair
Special Education Advisory Committee
Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic DSB

Rick Petrella
Chair of the Board
Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic DSB

c: Toby Barrett, MPP Haldimand-Norfolk
Will Bouma, MPP Brantford-Brant
Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees
Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education
Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association