



REPORT TO

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND  
WELL BEING, CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION AND HUMAN  
RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**ELEMENTARY CATHOLIC STUDENT LEADERSHIP  
IMPACT TEAM REPORT 2021**

*But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.  
(Psalm 85:15)*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
October 25, 2021	November 3, 2021	<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>

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**INFORMATION 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.*



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## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Throughout the month of October, the Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (CSLIT) Directors of Elementary Affairs collected information from over two hundred (200+) students from fifty-seven (57) elementary schools across the board. To capture elementary students' voices, all students were asked to complete a survey identifying local and global issues that they believe should be a focus for the 2021-2022 school year. The Elementary Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (ECSLIT) wishes to implement actions that address each issue.

*The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 40 hours.*

## **B. PURPOSE**

1. This information report is on the order paper of the Student Achievement and Well-Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee through an approved motion requesting an annual report for information on the initiatives and activities of the Elementary Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team.
2. The report includes practical activities that elementary schools can perform to support initiatives that would address the recommendations made by elementary students.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. Through a survey, ECSLIT students were given the opportunity to voice their opinions and rank what they believe are the most important topics on which to focus. The input from elementary student leaders will give the CSLIT Directors of Elementary Affairs a blueprint to help direct what should be the prime focus for ECSLIT in the 2021-2022 school year.
2. This report includes practical action plans that elementary schools and ECSLIT can perform in order to support initiatives that would convey the recommendations made by elementary student leaders.

## D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. Although one thousand, one hundred sixty-three (1163) *secondary* students were polled last March at the Voices That Challenge conference, the elementary student voice was not directly captured within that process. To best serve the needs of our elementary community, students were asked to complete a short survey so that the CSLIT Directors of Elementary Affairs could compile ideas directly from elementary students.
2. Based on the recommendations made by elementary students, the following action plan is being proposed by our elementary student leaders in collaboration with CSLIT's Directors of Elementary Affairs and the CSLIT Executive. ECSLIT will be focusing on the following three pillars for the 2020-2021 school year: (1) Enhancing Equity (2) Mental Health & Well-Being; (3) Indigenous Education and Immersion.

ECSLIT 2021-2022 Recommended Actions
<b>1. Enhancing Equity</b>  To be <i>collaborative contributors</i> , student leaders need to learn the importance of equity and anti-racism. The opportunity to celebrate and be educated on the various cultures and traditions found throughout TCDSB is very important to elementary students. Everyone needs to be treated with <i>human dignity</i> because everyone is created in the likeness and image of God.  With the help from the Equity, Diversity, Indigenous Education, and Community Relations department, ECSLIT will hold a panel discussion on anti-racism at one of its monthly meetings. Participants will get the opportunity to ask our special guests questions regarding the topic.  When selecting guest speakers and workshop facilitators for various Catholic Student Leadership events (for example: iLITE, Camp Olympia), topics surrounding equity and anti-racism will be explored and offered.  In addition, at every monthly meeting, our Directors of Elementary affairs will feature a leader from visible minorities. This will be in the form of a short presentation. The goal is for elementary students to see themselves and their culture in positions of importance.

## **2. Mental Health and Well-Being**

The Catholic Graduate Expectations call us to be *reflective, creative and holistic lifelong learners*. This however is hard to achieve when one struggles with their mental health.

Mental health affects every aspect of a student's life - the way that we *think*, the way we *act* towards our family, peers and teachers, and the way we *feel*. Hence why we should focus on the importance of prioritizing mental health.

In collaboration with the TCDSB Mental Health Department, the Directors of Elementary Affairs want to better publicize the existing mental health resources available to students. We can achieve this by various social media campaigns and a new section on our website devoted to mental health.

We will designate one monthly ECSLIT meeting to have a mental health focus. In collaboration with our board's mental health team, we hope to have guest speakers who can provide mental health resources as well as demonstrate activities that our students can practice themselves when they feel the need to do so.

In addition, at each ECSLIT monthly meeting, we want to feature one mental health strategy that our students can put in their mental health toolbox. We would like the assistance from our board's mental health team to help build this mental health toolbox which will be released one at a time at each monthly meeting.

## **3. Indigenous Rights and Education**

As *caring family members*, it is important to learn about and address the needs of all members of God's family. Based on survey results, our elementary students have shown great interest in furthering their knowledge pertaining to Indigenous rights, education, and history.

Like the other pillar, we want to designate one ECSLIT monthly meeting to celebrate Ingenious culture and learn more about FNMI traditions. The plan is to have an Indigenous guest speaker and an in-depth Q&A period to foster this learning.

We would like our elementary students to learn about the Seven Grandfather Teachings. At each meeting, we will highlight one Grandfather Teaching. We will start in November and end in May.

In collaboration with Student Trustees and CSLIT, the Directors of Elementary Affairs plan to expand the week-long Indigenous leadership program to include elementary students. This will enable intermediate students the same opportunity to immerse themselves in Indigenous culture, and to provide them with hands-on learning regarding this topic.

#### **Additional Topics of Focus**

Every month we will provide attendance numbers to our Student Trustees who can build them into their monthly board reports. Our hope is for all Trustees and area superintendents to get more schools involved who are currently underrepresented or not participating.

### **E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

1. Students should be motivated to affect positive change in our world around injustices. Students feel a calling to live out their faith; therefore, involvement in social justice actions allow them to make their faith visible. The current Student Trustees will be engaging the ECSLIT so that they can work with various staff to address their specific recommendations. Students feel that Board policies must address and be in line with current global and local social justice issues.
2. Moving forward, the Student Trustees and ECSLIT will report back to the Board on the impact of their initiatives in their annual report to the Board of Trustees.

### **F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This report is for the information of the Board.