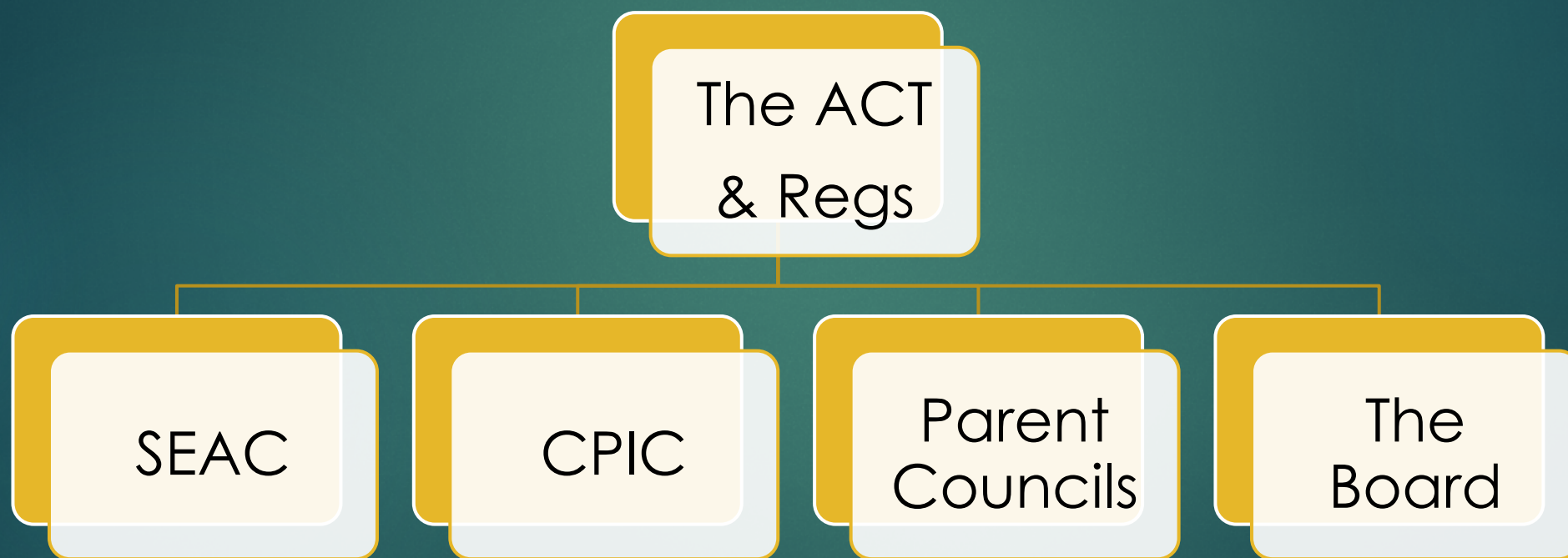


# The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) and TCDSB Governance

HOW DOES SEAC FIT AT TCDSB?

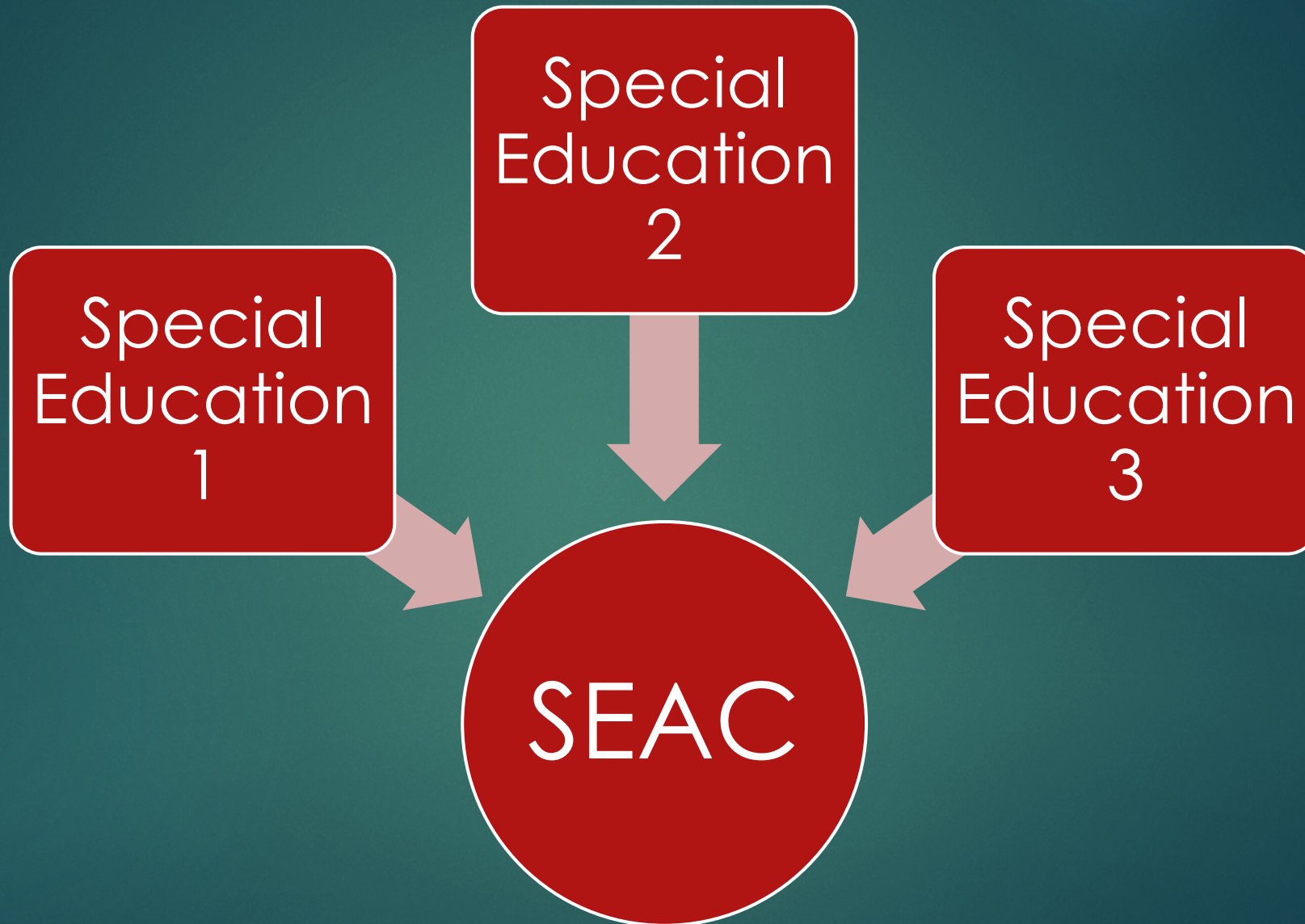
# You Are a “Creature of Statute”



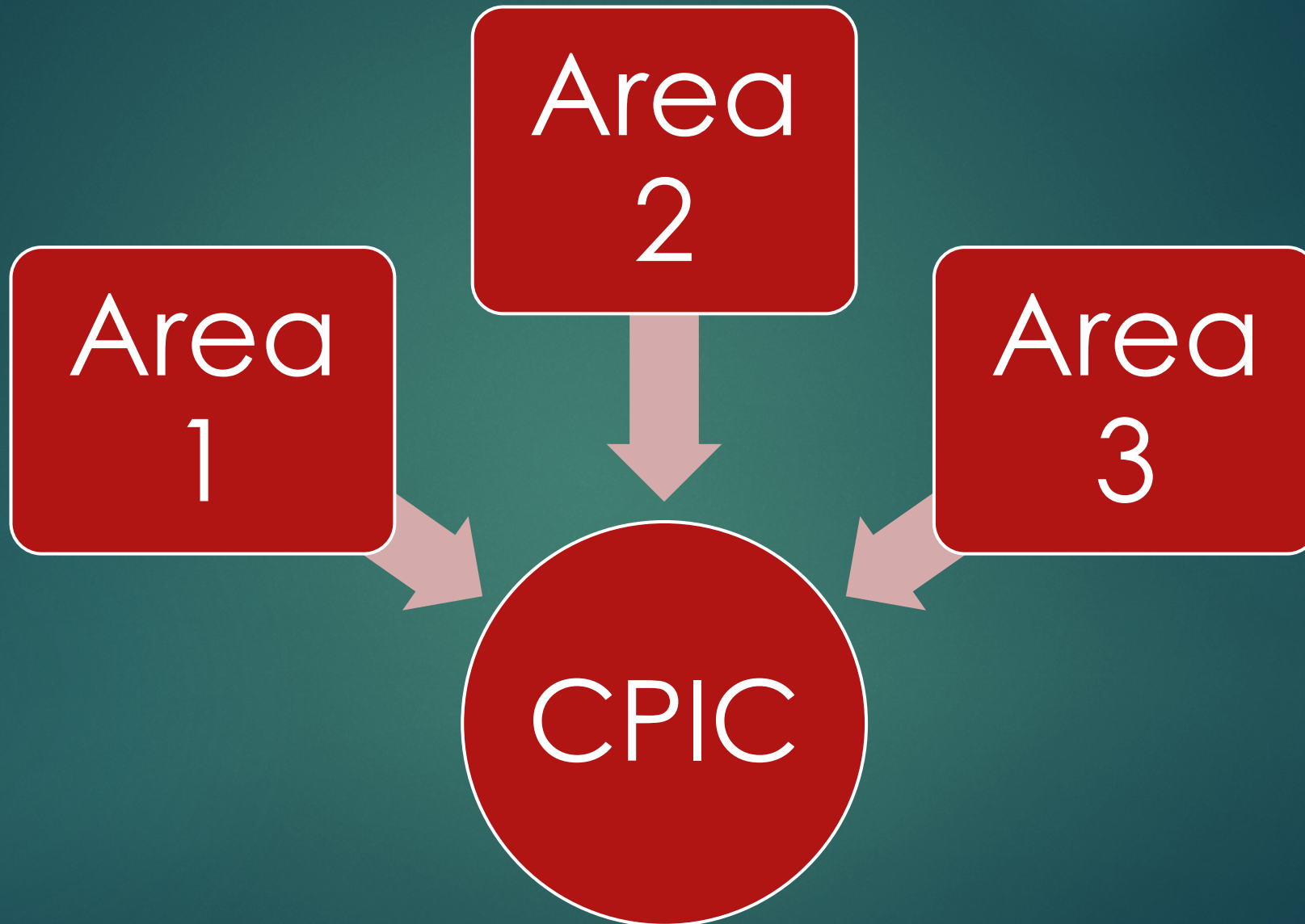


# Creatures of Statute are:

- ▶ Mandated by law
- ▶ Have specific roles within the framework of the Education Act & its Regulations
- ▶ Cannot aggregate to themselves powers or duties which are not granted by the Act.
- ▶ May have specific relationships with other Creatures of the Act, or not.







# The Most Important Letter in SEAC is the “C”

- ▶ SEAC is a **Committee** structured to provide many perspectives
- ▶ It is composed of **subject experts** with the role of speaking for a community of interests (which don't always mean the same things to everyone)
- ▶ Can only act via decisions of the whole group
- ▶ Is strictly limited by statute to a single power...





# ...Recommendation

SEAC HAS NO OTHER POWER, AND NO OTHER PURPOSE

# It isn't a recommendation unless...

- ▶ It is a motion duly passed by SEAC at a meeting (and using the rules of the Committee).
- ▶ It falls within the mandate of SEAC
- ▶ It is appropriate to be considered by the Board of Trustees



# SEAC Recommends, Board Decides

- ▶ Board can refer a SEAC (or CPIC) recommendation to staff (for additional study or consultation) or can take up the recommendation.
- ▶ Board can receive a SEAC recommendation and take no further action. “Thanks for letting us know.”
- ▶ Board may refer a question back to SEAC or to other bodies within the TCDSB.

# Important Considerations

- ▶ Members by themselves have no powers
- ▶ SEAC does not directly control anything; no staff, no parent councils, no policies, nothing; except your own deliberations
- ▶ You are representatives of organizations, not necessarily free agents
- ▶ The Act gives you access (to the Director of Education or his designate, to the Trustee members of SEAC, and to information from staff.
- ▶ You are influential because of your expertise, and your access



# The Problem with Subject Experts

- ▶ Not experts on everything
- ▶ Tend to follow their own passions
- ▶ Tend to prioritize time/effort around their own specialization
- ▶ May “talk past” other experts with different knowledge

# Good Advice

- ▶ Use formal rules to make decisions, not to distract from your role
- ▶ Look for shared issues where you can make recommendations which will serve many of the students under the Special Education umbrella
- ▶ Bring your expertise/do your homework
- ▶ Remember your mandate





Questions?

Thank-you

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**  
**Attachments:**

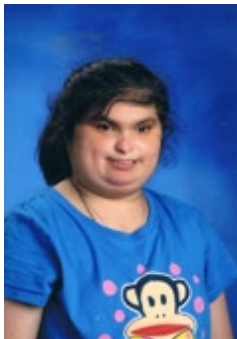
---

**From:** Feldman, Geoffrey (SEAC)  
**Sent:** October 19, 2021 5:41 PM  
**To:** Special Education Advisory Committee **Subject:** Additional Agenda Item

Dear Members

I will be requesting your consideration for an additional agenda item to be added to our meeting tomorrow if time permits. I missed the call for Agenda items as I still cannot get email on my cellphone due to a glitch with the email system.

The item is a thank you from SEAC this time it is to Erica Wilson who is the Principal of Loretto College School in Ward 6. She kindly organized and paid for photographs of all the ME Summer Camp Students that attended during July 2021 it was a pleasant surprise and along with the class photo provides wonderful memories to all the ME students.



Thank you for your kind consideration.

Warmly

Geoffrey Feldman, P. Eng MBA

TCDSB SEAC Committee Member [geoffrey.feldman@tcdsb.org](mailto:geoffrey.feldman@tcdsb.org)

@gfSpclNeeds @canlink

<http://www.beprofitable.ca>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/geoffreyfeldman/>

Special Needs Parent and Advocate

@ODCoalition [odcoalition.wordpress.com](http://odcoalition.wordpress.com)

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab - Family Engagement Volunteer

MoH Provincial Genetics Committee – Lived Experience Advisor

---

*TCDSB Confidentiality Disclaimer: "This e-mail may be privileged and/or confidential. The sender does not waive any related rights and obligations. Any distribution, use, or copying of this e-mail or the information it contains by anyone other than the intended recipient(s) is unauthorized and may breach the provisions of the Municipal Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act. If you received this e-mail in error, please advise me by return e-mail and delete the material."*



October 5, 2021

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

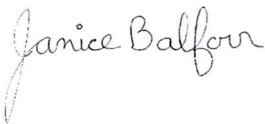
Dear Minister Lecce,

**Re: Support for Bill 172 An Act in Relation to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder**

Trillium Lakelands District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee is in full support of Bill 172. This proposed legislation will require all boards of education throughout Ontario to develop policies and guidelines with respect to FASD and require the Ontario College of Teachers and ECE programs to provide training with respect to FASD.

The high prevalence of FASD in Ontario makes it imperative that we offer comprehensive services to those impacted. The Ontario government has supported communities by providing funding for FASD Workers, an online information portal, indigenous FASD/child nutrition programs, and family and caregiver support groups. This support needs to be expanded to ensure that our educators have the knowledge and skills they need to support children and youth impacted by FASD to reach their full potential.

Thank you for acknowledging our support for Bill 172.



Janice Balfour  
Chair of SEAC, TLDSB

Cc: Norm Miller, MPP  
Laurie Scott, MPP  
SEAC Chairs