



January 27, 2022

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." [Matthew 19:14](#)

The Toronto Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and the Toronto Chapter of the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education, recognizes and respects the collective bargaining process. To that end, as the parents of children in the Toronto Catholic District School Board, we are calling for both sides to continue to negotiate to ensure student success and an end to the continued work to rule and threatened strike action.

The pandemic has been most challenging for all families but has been especially hard for those with children struggling with mental health. Our children's socialization and peer relationships have been impacted far greater than adults. We need to remember this - putting our students first is paramount as we continue to work through the impacts and challenges of the pandemic and any additional layers of stress already placed on them is of utter concern for us.

Parent engagement is at an all time low however we are asking more from our parents to help their children deal with the ongoing changes and assist in filling the gap. Parents have been tested through and through, during a time when they needed additional support to help them deal with challenges to school, their children's well-being and mental health they are asked to give more. Pandemic, work to rule, ongoing negotiations, and now the possibility of strike action adds more anxiety for parents in an already stressful period.

Our Catholic schools need to continue to nurture our children's physical and mental health as well as promote the best possible learning opportunities for all our children. As mentioned, these issues are not beneficial to anyone, especially our children. We encourage, again, both partners in Catholic Education to resume bargaining in good faith in the name of our children - we urge both parties to reach an agreement as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Annalisa Curdo-Perri
OAPCE Executive Director

Joe Fiorante
CPIC Chair