



## REPORT TO

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY  
COMMITTEE

## FLAG FLYING POLICY A.04 (NEW)

*"Obey the government, for God is the One who has put it there. There is no government anywhere that God has not placed in power. So those who refuse to obey the law of the land are refusing to obey God, and punishment will follow." Romans 13:1-2*

**Created, Draft**

August 10, 2021

Paul Matthews, General Legal Counsel

**First Tabling**

September 7, 2021

**Review****RECOMMENDATION 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.*



Dr. B. Browne  
Director of Education

D. Koenig  
Associate Director  
of Academic Affairs

D. Boyce  
Associate Director of Facilities,  
Business and Community  
Development, and  
Chief Financial Officer

## A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends a new policy on Flag Flying Protocols at the Toronto Catholic District School Board to conform with current legal requirements and policies. The policy has been amended to add that the Board of Trustees may direct that flags be flown at half-staff. The Governance and Policy Committee previously requested that staff develop operational procedures to address the request for multiple flags being flown at the same time. Further the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee met on September 27, 2021 and advised that it is considering which Indigenous themed flag will be flown on a go forward basis. **The Operational Procedures have been drafted in consultation with the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee.**

*The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 8 hours.*

## B. PURPOSE

This Recommendation Report is on the Order Paper of the Governance and Policy Committee as it recommends a new policy on Flag Flying Protocol.

## C. BACKGROUND

1. At the Corporate Services Meeting on May 20, 2021, a motion was passed for staff to create a new policy on Flag Flying protocols.
2. This new policy reflects current legal requirements and alignment with related protocols:
  - (i) *National Flag of Canada Act S.C. 2012, c.12*
  - (ii) *Education Act – Ontario Regulation 298*
  - (iii) *Guidelines for National Symbols – Government of Canada*
3. At the Governance and Policy Committee meeting on October 5, 2021 the policy was referred back to staff to provide the Operational Procedures in Consultation with the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee.
4. This policy review was deferred at December 7, 2021 Governance and Policy Committee.

5. The report appeared and the January 11, 2022 Governance and Policy Committee where direction was given to staff to change and amend the draft policy. Those considerations and changes are presented.

## **D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS**

This policy has been amended in consultation with staff from the Facilities and Communications Departments, Field Superintendents and Legal Services.

This draft policy has been further updated to reflect language pertaining to the indoor display of flags at schools.

## **E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

1. Recommendations in this report will be monitored by policy development staff
2. Further reports will be brought to Board in accordance with the policy review schedule.

## **F. IMPLEMENTATION**

The updated policy as approved will be posted on the TCDSB policy register.

## **G. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the newly created Policy on Flag Flying and Operational Procedures provided in Report Appendix A, be adopted.