

NOTES FOR REMARKS IN SUPPORT OF TRUSTEE RIZZO'S MOTION ON GENDER EQUITY IN SPORTS

Good evening, Trustees of the Toronto Catholic District School Board. My name is Tim Hudak and I am the Chair of the Loretto Abbey Catholic School Parent Council and as a father of a daughter attending Loretto Abbey.

I am here to speak in strong support of Trustee Rizzo's motion on Gender Equity in Sports. We commend Trustee Rizzo for taking this initiative. We appreciate her support of Loretto Abbey Catholic Secondary School, the students and their parents. We are thankful for her for her impressive ability to put words into action in so soon bringing an issue recently raised at the Loretto Abbey Parent Council and promptly bringing this Motion forward today.

The CSPC strongly encourage the Trustees to support Trustee Rizzo's motion and direct staff to implement the initiatives in the motion. There is a significant disparity between the sports/recreational facilities at all girls schools compared to all boys schools or all gender schools. Loretto Abbey is a case in point lacking any outdoor sports fields/courts despite having a large land footprint. This inequity is unfair to female students attending these schools. It limits their potential. It is disrespectful to women. And we would all agree: it is a relic of the past. No Trustee around the table would make these discriminatory decisions today. Quite the opposite: following your work and knowing a number of you personally, you make every decision through the lens of respect for young women and providing every opportunity for young women to meet their full potential.

The Loretto Abbey Parent Council recognizes the decisions that put us into this disparity were not yours. While you cannot undue the past, you can act promptly to correct this inequity that is not in keeping with the values of the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

The Loretto Abbey CSPC respectfully asks you to support the motion and direct staff to expeditiously implement the recommendations of the motion including a strategy to correct the disparity, creating a reserve fund to implement the strategy and short term efforts to immediately improve outdoor fields at all-girls schools.

Thank you for your public service and for your attention to this important matter.