

**DEPUTATION TO TCDSB CORPORATE SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF TRUSTEE RIZZO'S GENDER EQUITY AND INCLUSIVENESS IN SPORTS FACILITIES MOTION AT THE CSPC MEETING ON MARCH 22, 2023 AT 7 PM: WHY THE TDCSB NEEDS TO IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE INCREASED FUNDING FOR SPORTS FACILITIES FOR GIRLS/YOUNG WOMEN AT NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL (NDHS) AND EVERY ALL-GIRLS SCHOOLS ACROSS THE TCDSB**

- In 2022, there were 4 million women and 3.26 million men in the City of Toronto (Statista.com website). Women therefore make up well over 55% of the City of Toronto's overall population, yet they do not receive anywhere close to an equal level of educational funding and sports facilities funding compared to their male counterparts within the TCDSB. This stark inequity, which constitutes systemic gender inequality, needs to be rectified as a priority, and this starts with implementing immediate changes within the TCDSB. We therefore ask the Corporate Services at the TCDSB to pass Trustee Rizzo's Gender Equity and Inclusiveness in Sports Facilities motion at your March 22, 2023 meeting.
- In the Bible, Genesis 1:27 states that females and males were created equally in God's image. Yet, in 2023, girls' education within the TCDSB does not receive anywhere close to 50% of funding for education, sports and other extra-curricular activities. This gender inequality, which points to systemic gender inequity within the TCDSB, needs to change to address the importance of funding girls'/young women's sports facilities funding and education more generally within the Toronto community, and to send a message to girls/young women that they are equally as important as males and that they will be granted the same sports facilities funding resources and opportunities as males in order to succeed in sports.
- We have a daughter who is 15 in Grade 10 at NDHS all-girls school. We have 2 other daughters who will be attending NDHS within 3-4 years. All our daughters are high performance athletes and play multiple sports. Our daughter, who is in Grade 10, reports to us that NDHS does not have an adequate change rooms for female students, an adequate sized-gym, no track and field facilities, and a limited budget in support of her athletic teams. As a result, she tells us that as a female, she feels like a second-class citizen within the TCDSB due to the lack of parity in sports funding, sports facilities funding at NDHS as compared

to her TCDSB male counterparts attending the all-male high school down the road, Neil McNeil. In contrast, Neil McNeil has a proper large change rooms, a large gym, a large field with track and field facilities, and a large athletic budget which permits students at Neil McNeil to prosper in high school athletics. She tells us that disparity between gender-based funding within the TCDSB amounts, in her mind, to discrimination against female students who are no less deserving than their male counterparts.

- According to leading institutions which monitors the gender gap in educational funding in North America and beyond, from a policy perspective, increasing educational and athletics funding for girls/young women contributes later to their [increased formal economic opportunity](#) and [wages](#), [decreases in pregnancy](#) and [early marriage](#), [reduction in child](#) and [maternal mortality](#), [better educated children](#) when they do bear children, [increased participation in politics](#), and [decreased climate risk vulnerability](#). The list of spill-over effects from increased investments in girls' education, sports and related activities also results in further empowering women; healthier families; and creating more resilient economies like the one in Toronto (Brookings.edu).
- We respectfully request that the TCDSB act immediately to formally adopt Trustee Rizzo's motion and immediately implement budgetary policies leading to better girls' education sports facilities funding for all female sports programs within the TCDSB as a step towards ending systemic gender funding inequality. Doing so will lead to bettering the situation of girls /young women across the entire TCDSB.
- The benefits of providing funding equality/funding parity for girls athletics and women's education will have a massive social, political, and economic impact on girls/young women and our entire society now and well into the future. Young girls/women at NDHS and beyond will reap the immediate benefits; the TCDSB will be applauded for rectifying this systemic gender inequity between the sexes in sports facilities, and for demonstrating gender equality funding/policy leadership within our Toronto community. Our girls/young women and society as a whole deserves no less.