



TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM
FOR STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL STANDING
COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE BEING RECORDED

For Board Use Only

Delegation No. ____

- Public Session
- Private Session
- Three (3) Minutes

Name	Elena Sinelnikova
Committee	Regular / Special Board
Date of Presentation	8/24/2017
Topic of Presentation	Admission to Toronto Catholic School a student from Edmonton Catholic School
Topic or Issue	Edmonton Catholic School GRADE 5 Student has moved to Toronto and is refused of being admitted to Toronto Catholic School due to the fact that he is baptized Orthodox Christian.
Details	<p>Our family has moved from Edmonton, Alberta to Toronto, Ontario. This is quite stressful and life changing experience for us, even more stressful than 18 years ago when we moved from Russia to Canada. We hoped that it would not be like that for our 10 year old son Evan.</p> <p>Evan, from 9 months old was attending Catholic Christian Daycare (http://www.hbcd.ca/) and then was accepted to Edmonton Catholic School - St. Elizabeth Seton School (https://www.ecsd.net/schools/8230/Pages/default.aspx) where he studied for 5 years</p>

from kindergarten to grade 4.

However, when we tried to place Evan in St. Michael Catholic School in Toronto (the only Christian School close to the place we live in Toronto) we found out that what was perfectly fine in Edmonton all of a sudden became unacceptable in Toronto - he was baptized in a Russian Orthodox Church and due to that Evan is not eligible to attend any Catholic School in Toronto. Considering his lifelong history with Catholic institutions and Catholic faith this requirement feels purely bureaucratic; after all both Churches believe in God and teach the same values.

We were told that if we enroll Evan into Rite of Christian Initiation of Children plus we as parents enroll to Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Evan might be able to attend this school. But again, this sounds like a purely bureaucratic requirement, because:

RCIC is a program that enables children to enter into a deeper relationship with God through prayer, reflection, discussion and study. It introduces children into the Catholic faith and way of life, and so prepares them to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation) and to be welcomed fully into the church.

Evan was long ago introduced to faith and practicing it (for the lack of a better word) for his whole life. We tried to explain him a whole situation and believe us it was a very damaging experience for him. He truly identifies himself as Catholic and can't imagine himself going to a school where there will be no morning prayer.

Then again, based on that reference it looks like it is fine in Ontario, but apparently not good in our case to attend Catholic school while not being a Catholic:

https://www.thestar.com/yourtoronto/education/2014/08/29/ontario_catholic_elementary_schools_quietly_admitting_students_of_all_faiths.html

We are puzzled to find out that Toronto Catholic District School Board as opposed to the Catholic Schools boards in Canada sets bureaucratic obstacles to the families who shares values of Catholic Faith and wish their kids to attend Catholic Schools. Is Toronto Catholic Church somehow different from Edmonton Catholic Church?

We were shocked to receive that rejection letter and talked to many of our friends in Toronto only to find out that there are non-Catholic families having their non-Catholic kids attending Catholic Schools in Toronto (I am willing to get their consent and will be

	<p>able to share this information). That raises another question: "Why some are allowed, but others not?" How Faith can be exclusive and privileged?</p> <p>We ask you with all respect comment on that situation and explain us why our kid is refused a Catholic Education while currently being a Catholic student and practicing this religion his whole life.</p>
Action Requested	St. Michael's school is happy to admit Evan as there are empty spots available with the Board approval. Please give this approval.
I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf	Yes
I am an official representative of the Catholic School Parent Committee (CSPC)	No St Michael
I am an official representative of student government	
I am here as a spokesperson for another group or organization	
Submittal Date	7/4/2017