

Memo #13

Date: November 29, 2016

To: Executive/Members

Re: **Pre-Budget Consultations; National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**

Pre-Budget Consultations

The Ontario government has once again launched a “Budget Talks” website, to generate ideas from Ontarians as the province prepares its budget for the coming year.

As in past years, there are several proposals to eliminate the publicly funded Catholic education system. Although the Minister of Finance has indicated that this issue is not on the table, we need Catholic teachers and others in the Catholic school community to make it clear to everyone that Catholic education works, amalgamation does not save money, and the Catholic community is united in support of the system.

The format this year is somewhat different than in past. Visitors to this website can add their own project ideas and/or agree with, question, or comment on existing proposals.

Under the focus area of “help students to achieve their full potential” two project ideas have been submitted:

1. [Eliminating separate schools](#)
2. [Spending \\$250,000 on a study](#) to assess the savings to be realized through the amalgamation of public and separate school boards.

Visit <https://talks.ontario.ca/> to see the proposals. Please note that you must register to leave comments or questions.

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is commemorated in Canada each year on December 6. On this day in 1989, 14 young women were murdered in a tragic act of gender violence at the École Polytechnique in Montreal. This is known as the Montreal Massacre and the anniversary is marked across the nation by vigils, discussions and prayer. This day reminds us to consider the women and girls for whom violence is an everyday reality and to remember those who have died because of gender based violence.

One way to take concrete action to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls is to raise awareness in our classrooms and schools. On behalf of the OECTA Status of Women Committee we invite you to share this information with your school representatives so they may encourage participation in this action. On December 6, it is encouraged that you include school announcements and prayers that address gender violence. For your convenience, a sample announcement and prayer for Elementary schools are included at the bottom of this memo. As well, on the OECTA website you will find *We Remember Through Action*, a commemorative resource guide for intermediate and senior grades, which provides ideas and links to classroom resources for teachers to facilitate problem solving and discussion in the classroom at <http://www.oecta.on.ca/For-Your-Classroom/Curriculum-Resources/Other>.

We also invite you to participate in the YWCA Rose Campaign. Ways of participating in this campaign are numerous: You can order buttons, posters, bookmarks, videos; you can send a message to your MP encouraging him/her to take action; you can participate in “Light the Night” on December 6, and light your school/unit office with red lights on December 6. The Committee would particularly like to invite participation in tweeting to **#Notokay** and joining in on the conversation. Information about all the different aspects of the campaign, including ordering materials, can be found at www.rosecampaign.ca.

ELEMENTARY - Sample Announcement and Prayer

December 6th is Canada’s National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. No one regardless of gender should be a victim of violence. Everyone deserves to be able to go to school and live in a community, free from harm. This December 6th remember those who have been victims and pray for an end to violence.

God of life, today we stop and remember women and girls who are suffering from harm and abuse. We pray for open hearts and minds to support women and girls. Help us to offer hope to one another and to act to end violence against women. Help us to bring about a world where women and men – boys and girls are able to love and to be loved. Amen.

**If you have any concerns, please contact the Unit office at 705-733-9625 or 1 800 558 4815
Thank you for sharing this information with OECTA members.**