

Memo #33

Date: March 7, 2017

To: Executive/Members

Re: **Walk for Social Justice; Communication with Parents Guide for Kindergarten Educator; International Women's Day**

Walk for Social Justice

The OECTA Simcoe Muskoka Human Rights Committee would like to invite you to join us in the *Walk for Social Justice* post-Catholic Education week (**May 15 – 19, 2017**). Our goal is to have as many schools participate as possible in the walk. It's easy: your school chooses a day and time (May 15 - 19) to walk with your Social Justice group or classes that involve a planned walking route around your school's community. With banners, your message of the social-justice actions your school or individuals have undertaken in supporting various social-justice causes locally, nationally, and/or internationally, will be heralded throughout the community. In the upcoming months, support material will be provided through templates, black-line masters and permission forms. **Remember: no action is too small if it helps to dignify the humanity of others.**

Please have the lead person [register for *The Walk for Social Justice*](#). Those who register will be the point of contact for your school. After all, as we give witness to *Our Faith ~ Our Future* and remember the human dignity by honouring each person's human rights, we are following in Jesus' footsteps. Let's do it together with *The Walk for Social Justice*.

You can find information on the Logo Design Contest on our local website – it is a pop-up when you log in. Deadline is March 31st.

Communication with Parents Guide for Kindergarten Educator

The Ministry's Edugains (www.edugains.ca) website hosts most of that information including the new Communicating with Parents about Children's Learning: A Guide for Kindergarten Educators

The Ministry is now looking for feedback on the Guide for Kindergarten Educators. All kindergarten teachers are encouraged to provide feedback to the Ministry, about the guide up until **March 22, 2017**. The feedback form is very brief and we are requesting your assistance in having kindergarten teachers provide feedback. This will support our endeavours to have issues addressed.

International Women's Day 2017

March 8 is International Women's Day, an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of women around the world and commit to fighting for gender parity. With gender-based violence, wage gaps, and stereotypes still plaguing our society, we still have a long way to go.

1. Avoid shopping for one day at locations listed on #grabyourwallet: <https://grabyourwallet.org/>
2. Support women and minority-owned businesses and shop local.
 1. The following is a list of Companies self-identified as being 51% or more owned, managed, and controlled by one or more women: http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ccc_bt-rec_ec.nsf/eng/h_00008.html
 2. Mompreneurs® support, educate, and empower moms in business. You can see a list of their members her: <http://themompreneur.com/regional-chapters/all-mompreneurs/>
 3. Know of other local women and minority-owned businesses? Show your support and share them on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/wmwcanada/>
3. Wear RED in solidarity with A Day Without A Woman and our global sisters celebrating a Week of Action
4. Attend a local International Women's Day Event. You can find local events here: <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/Events>

**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.**