



June 8, 2022

Chairpersons and Directors of Education
All Catholic District School Boards

Re: Sexual Abuse Prevention Program

*In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it.
Be protectors of God's gifts! - Pope Francis*

This memo is a follow up to the memo issued on February 8, 2022 regarding the mandatory *Sexual Abuse Prevention Program*, mandated by the Ontario government for all certified teachers. As you know, the Ontario College of Teachers has worked with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection (C3P) to develop the program, which consists of various online modules. The OCT's goal for the *Sexual Abuse Prevention Program* is to provide teachers with updated information on professional boundaries, societal standards, and potential warning signs, so teachers will be better able to identify and report situations where a student may be at risk of harm.

The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) and the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) have worked together to implement this requirement in our Catholic schools. We have created sample materials for your consideration with our distinct Catholic identity for Catholic School Boards and local Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association Units to accompany the training including:

- Sexual Abuse Prevention Program: Resource for Catholic Teachers
- Sexual Abuse Prevention Program: Power Point

All Ontario Certified Teachers are expected to complete this one-time, online program on a Professional Activity Day prior to the September 15, 2022 deadline. Teachers new to the profession and teachers returning must pass it to be eligible for certification by the College. There is no cost to complete the program.

OCSTA and OECTA are steadfast in our commitment to protecting our students and agree sexual abuse prevention is of such high importance that this requires a consistent approach across the province. We thank you in advance for your commitment to supporting students with this important new initiative. Please see the attached sample materials provided to accompany the *Sexual Abuse Prevention Program*.

Sincerely,

Barb Dobrowolski
President
Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association

Patrick Daly
President
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association