

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF PARENTS IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION



ANNUAL REPORT SCHOOL YEAR 2019/2020

Table of Contents

OAPCE vision	4
OAPCE mission	4
OAPCE mandate	4
Membership	4
Oapce Provincial and its Regional Affiliates	5
Why do we need to have an OAPCE Representative?	5
OAPCE Representative Role.....	6
Did you know the OAPCE Liaison Representative was mandated by the Ministry?	6
I'm interested in this important role!	6
Our Partners and Stakeholders	7
Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO)	7
Catholic Curriculum Corporation (CCC)	7
Catholic Principals Council of Ontario (CPCO)	7
Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario (CEFO)	8
Ontario Catholic Schools Business Officials Association (OCSBOA)	8
Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers Association (OCSOA)	9
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA).....	9
Ontario College of Teachers (OCT)	9
Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA)	10
Institute of Catholic Education (ICE)	10
Ministry of Education (Parent Engagement Office).....	10
OAPCE 2019/2020 Member School Boards	12
OAPCE Organizational Structure 2019/2020	13
Administration	13
Executive.....	13
Directors.....	13
OAPCE Year End Review	14
Key Accomplishments	16
Advocate	16
Enhance.....	16

Engage.....	16
Spring 2019	17
Summer 2019	17
Fall 2019	17
Winter 2020	17
Spring 2020	17
May 9 th , 2020 Virtual Parent Summit	17
Summer 2020.....	18
Looking Ahead	18

OAPCE VISION

OAPCE is the voice of parents that promotes and protects publicly funded Catholic Education in Ontario.

Engage – Advocate – Enhance

OAPCE MISSION

To Engage, Advocate and Enhance through the strength of our collective voice. Through our connection to home, school and church, OAPCE collaborates with local and provincial education partners to strengthen the parent voice.

OAPCE MANDATE

We are the voice of parents and guardians of children enrolled in the publicly funded English Catholic System of Education in the Province of Ontario. We are mandated by the Ministry of Education under Regulation 612 of the Education Act.

As a provincially authorized Ontario parent Association since 1939, the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) is the provincial and regional voice of Ontario parents and guardians in Catholic education. We are the designated provincial organization that is authorized through the Education Act, Regulation 612/00, to represent families with children enrolled in the Ontario English Catholic education system. As a prominent advocate for Catholic Education excellence and student success; OAPCE is a vital connection between the Ministry of Education, Catholic District School Boards, the Institute for Catholic Education, Ontario Catholic Education partners, Regional OAPCE Councils, School Parent Councils and other valuable partners in education. OAPCE further elevates the profile of a publicly funded Catholic system of education by providing opportunities for ongoing information and resource sharing, networking, learning and community building.

MEMBERSHIP

Many School Boards pay the full membership for all schools under their jurisdiction, often using funds provided by the Ministry of Education for parent engagement. If a Board does not use this method, individual schools may pay their membership on their own. Please contact our office for the membership cost for your school or board.

Membership pertains to the school year and as such, should be received by August 31st for the current year. When membership for parents/guardians in the OAPCE has been paid either by the school board or your school, you are strongly encouraged to appoint/elect an OAPCE Liaison Representative on your school council. (Regulation 612).

This OAPCE Liaison Representative is an additional voting parent member position to the usual School Parent Council membership and the purpose is to provide contact between the school council, any Regional OAPCE Council and the provincial Association. These OAPCE Liaison Representatives will sit as part of a Regional Council and become the conduit to share parents views and concerns with the OAPCE.

OAPCE PROVINCIAL AND ITS REGIONAL AFFILIATES

OAPCE Communicates with parents across the province through email, our Website, and social media specifically Facebook and Twitter. Recently OAPCE has added a virtualized component by hosting meetings via Zoom.

The OAPCE has a Board of Directors is the governing body of the regional network of parents and guardians whose children are enrolled in publicly funded Catholic education. OAPCE is a partner of the Institute of Catholic Education (ICE) with Teachers, Principals, Trustees and Bishops to mention a few. Our Directors sit on working tables/committees with the Ministry of Education, are active members of EQAO assessment, and are the parent perspective to media including Catholic Register and Salt and Light TV.

WHY DO WE NEED TO HAVE AN OAPCE REPRESENTATIVE?

From these meetings and events we receive up to date and timely information about the issues of the Catholic education system of Ontario. We then provide our OAPCE Liaison Reps with this information to pass along to their School Parent Councils. We also provide our OAPCE Liaison Reps with information on the operations and activities of OAPCE, upcoming education events taking place in different areas across the province, and requests for feedback on items such as curriculum reviews or Ministry initiatives where we are asked to provide comment on behalf of the parents in our system. We also offer strategies for parent engagement for their school parent councils, offer best practices and ensure policies are understood for parents.

We also hope to receive information in return from our Liaison Representatives regarding their local and regional achievements, celebrations/events, as well as areas of concern requiring clarification and/or recommendations that have been identified or any concerns that we can help with.

OAPCE REPRESENTATIVE ROLE

- Parent member on the School Council.
- Be a point of contact for information sharing between OAPCE and the School Parent Council.

DID YOU KNOW THE OAPCE LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE WAS MANDATED BY THE MINISTRY?

The Ontario Education Act, Regulation 612/00 states, “3. (1) A school council for a school shall be composed of the following people ... 8. One person appointed by an association that is a member of the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education or Parent Partenaires en Education, if the association that is a member of the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education or Parent Partenaires en Education is established in respect of the school.”

I’M INTERESTED IN THIS IMPORTANT ROLE!

1. Volunteer on your School Parent Council to be their OAPCE Liaison Representative. You have a vote.
2. Email OAPCE at oapce@oapce.org advising us that you are the OAPCE Liaison Representative.
3. You will receive information and newsletters directly to your email and it is expected that you pass this information to your School Parent Council. For a list of your regions website, click OAPCE Regional Websites from the Main Menu. Subscribe to OAPCE’s Mailing List and your regions mailing list.
4. Inform OAPCE of any concerns/questions that your parents have regarding any Educational matter
5. Participate in all our Events including meetings, webinars, summits and our Conference!

OUR PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

We have strong relationships and the support of many Catholic partners.

- They respect our voice
- They provide financial support
- They invite us to their tables and we are happy to accept
- They assist in promoting the OAPCE Annual Conference

ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ONTARIO (ACBO)

www.acbo.on.ca



By its very nature, the ACBO is a forum where the Bishops of Ontario reflect together and collaborate on projects to proclaim, celebrate and live the Good News of Jesus Christ in our province. It is an instrument of the collegiality that binds Bishops with each other under the leadership of the Bishop of Rome in a common purpose, a common mission, a common faith.

The ACBO is one of four regional assemblies of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, which is located in Ottawa. The CCCB is the national association of all Catholic Bishops of Canada.

ACBO sits at the Institute for Catholic Education table to discuss issues and events with other ICE members.

CATHOLIC CURRICULUM CORPORATION (CCC)

www.catholiccurriculumcorp.org

The CCC 's mandate is to build and sustain the Catholic capacity of educators through the development and provision of high quality Catholic curriculum, resources, support and professional development.



OAPCE attends meetings and/or conferences and has continuing dialogue concerning Catholic education.



CATHOLIC
PRINCIPALS'
COUNCIL | ONTARIO
Serve. Advocate. Lead.

CATHOLIC PRINCIPALS COUNCIL OF ONTARIO (CPCO)
www.cpco.on.ca

The Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO) is a voluntary, professional organization that serves the principals and vice-principals in Ontario's 29 publicly

funded Catholic school boards. CPCO is an advocate for a strong Catholic school system in the province of Ontario. It is the leading Catholic educational association in Canada, delivering high quality professional learning through the Catholic lens for Catholic school leaders.

CPCO sits at the Institute for Catholic Education table to discuss issues and events with other ICE members. They sponsor a part of our annual Conference.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO (CEFO)

www.cefontario.ca



OAPCE is a proud member of the board for CEFO. CEFO recognizes and promotes: the distinctive contribution of Catholic Education to society; the rights and obligations of parents as primary educators; the pastoral responsibilities of the Church; the duty of the state to promote the temporal welfare; the competencies of professional educators and elected

representatives; and the accomplishments of educators and students in Catholic schools.

OAPCE is a member of this Association and sits at the discussion table.

ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BUSINESS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION (OCSBOA)

www.ocsboa.ca

OCSBOA works collaboratively with the partners in Catholic education to foster members' professional development and networking, promote effective best management practices, and support Gospel values in service of Catholic education.



OCSBOA is a Catholic education partner established to

support the professional development and networking of committed and compassionate school board business practitioners who demonstrate compassion and servant leadership, their God-given talents and best, ethical practices in service of our students, Gospel values and protection of Catholic education.

OCSBOA sits at the Institute for Catholic Education table to discuss issues and events with other ICE members. They sponsor a part of our annual Conference.

ONTARIO CATHOLIC SUPERVISORY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (OCSOA)

www.ocsoa.ca



Ontario Catholic
Supervisory Officers'
Association

This Association is an incorporated professional association of Catholic Supervisory Officers dedicated to furthering the interests of Catholic education and promoting the professional

development and welfare of its members.

OCSOA sits at the Institute for Catholic Education table to discuss issues and events with other ICE members. They sponsor a part of our annual Conference.

ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION (OCSTA)

www.ocsta.on.ca

They provide an important link between local communities and the school board, bringing the issues and concerns of their constituents to board discussions and decision making. Board Trustees are elected every four (4) years during the municipal election. Student trustees are elected by their peers on an annual basis.



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

Our Trustees are accountable to our school community for the decisions made by the Board. They are available and accessible to the public to address concerns from the community with respect to Board policies and procedures. They also act as ambassadors for the system, officiating and speaking at school openings and events. Trustees are ombudspersons for students and community members, advocating a wide range of issues regarding Catholic education.

OCSTA (Ontario Catholic School Trustee Association) is a powerful lobby for Catholic education. They monitor government activity, contribute to the decision-making process, liaise with all provincial political parties, and respond to issues affecting Catholic education. An integral part of OCSTA's mission is the support of activities and initiatives that enhance the Catholic dimension of our school system.

OCSTA sits at the Institute for Catholic Education table to discuss issues and events with other ICE members.

ONTARIO COLLEGE OF TEACHERS (OCT)

www.oct.ca



Ontario
College of
Teachers

The Ontario College of Teachers licenses, governs and regulates Ontario's teaching profession in the public

interest. It sets standards of practice and ethical standards, conducts disciplinary hearings and accredits teacher education programs affecting its 235,000 members in publicly funded schools and institutions across Ontario. The College is the only self-regulatory body for Teachers in Canada.

OAPCE attends meetings and/or conferences and has continuing dialogue concerning Catholic education.

ONTARIO ENGLISH CATHOLIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (OECTA)

www.oecta.on.ca

OECTA promotes the professional and contractual welfare of teachers, promotes the principles of Catholic education, and defends the constitutional rights of the Catholic school system in Ontario.



OECTA sits at the Institute for Catholic Education table to discuss issues and events with other ICE members. They sponsor a part of our annual Conference.

INSTITUTE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION (ICE)

www.iceont.ca



The Ontario Institute for Catholic Education brings together, works with, and assists organizations that share responsibility for English Catholic education in their efforts to promote and maintain publicly-funded Catholic schools animated by the Gospel and reflecting the tenets of the Catholic faith.

ICE contributes to curriculum, professional development, research and renewal.

OAPCE sits at the table to discuss issues and events with the other ICE members. We also sit on the ICE Curriculum Committee where discussions occur about Catholic curriculum in our schools.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (PARENT ENGAGEMENT OFFICE)

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/involvement/>



The Parent Engagement Office was established to develop and implement parent engagement initiatives that support student achievement and well-being across the province. It was recently aligned with the inclusive Education Branch of the Ministry, recognizing parent engagement as an essential component of Ontario Equity and Inclusive Educational Strategy.

Includes: the Parent Reaching Out Grants, requirements for PIC (Parent Involvement Committee), and Ontario Parent Engagement Policy.

OAPCE receives funding from the Ministry in a form of a Grant yearly. We also apply for a Parents Reaching Out Grant for the Conference. We sit at numerous Working Tables at the Ministry as the voice of Catholic parents.

OAPCE 2019/2020 MEMBER SCHOOL BOARDS

1. Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board
2. Brant Haldimand Norfolk
3. Bruce-Grey
4. Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario
5. Dufferin Peel
6. Durham
7. Halton
8. Hamilton Wentworth
9. Huron-Perth
10. Huron-Superior
11. Kenora CDSB
12. London District
13. Nipissing Parry Sound
14. Northwest
15. Renfrew County
16. Sudbury
17. Superior North
18. Thunder Bay
19. Toronto
20. Waterloo
21. Windsor Essex
22. York

OAPCE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE 2019/2020

ADMINISTRATION

Annalisa Crudo-Perri
Executive Director (January 2020)
Email: oapce@oapce.org

Joe Fiorante
Financial Administrator
Email: finance.admin@oapce.org

Jana Seymour
Office Administrator
Email: office.admin@oapce.org

DIRECTORS

Dave Bennett
Director - Toronto

Bishop Dabrowski - Liaison Bishop
Diocese of London

Maria Forbes
Director - Algonquin & Lakeshore

Denice Garell-Teti
Director - Halton

Mary Giardina
Director - York

EXECUTIVE

Nick Giovanelli
1st Vice-President / Executive Treasurer /
Director - Toronto
Email: toronto@oapce.org

Stéphane Rouleau
2nd Vice-President / Director - Brant
Haldimand Norfolk
Email: branthn@oapce.org

Mariana Kutin Morais
Executive Secretary / Director - Dufferin-
Peel
Email: dufferinpeel@oapce.org

Mariana Kutin Morais
Director- Dufferin Peel

Jennifer Millson
Director - Dufferin - Peel

Katie Piccininni
Director- Toronto

OAPCE YEAR END REVIEW

OAPCE represents Catholic School Boards across the province as they pay a yearly membership to be part of the organization, from those school boards Directors sit on the Board of Directors table to represent their regions. The Board of Directors that represented their regions in 2019/20 were:

Dave Bennett-Toronto CDSB
Maria Forbes-Algonquin Lakeshore CDSB
Denice Garell-Teti- Halton CDSB
Mary Giardina-York CDSB
Nick Giovanelli-Toronto CDSB
Mariana Kutin Morais-Dufferin Peel CDSB
Jennifer Millson-Dufferin CDSB
Katie Piccininni-Toronto CDSB
Stephane Rouleau-Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB

OAPCE has been busy updating and revising the Association's Policies and Procedures including the Communication, Expense, and Governance Policies along with a revision of the bylaws.

As part of the ongoing transformation of OAPCE organizationally the Board of Directors approved a revised operating structure to include 3 roles to reduce overall costs and add more value. They include an Executive Director, Financial Officer and an Office Administrator. These roles took effect in January 2020. As the organization evolves and grows the roles will be continuously examined to ensure that the roles support the needs of the organization.

These positions fulfill many of the key roles and responsibilities that traditionally had been completed by various committees and subcommittees within OAPCE. In order to respond in an effective and timely way the volunteer approach was proving ineffective. The communications, social media, financial accounting, as well as administrative support, have been now aligned under the roles with oversight of the Executive Director. The Executive Director ensures that all actions taken have Board approval.

OAPCE continues to send out Press Releases that have gone out across the province to ensure clear and open communication with our many stakeholders and education partners across the province. We hope that these messages along with the OAPCE News Blog will keep you up to date on the activities of the Association along with our website, Facebook and Twitter page.

We welcomed the following new directors that took on their roles during the 2019/2020 school year.

- Jennifer Millson for Dufferin Peel replacing Chuck Farmer.
- Katie Piccininni for Toronto replacing Joe Fiorante.
- Maria Forbes for Algonquin Lakeshore replacing Chris Wright.

We are also blessed to continue to have as a member on our Board of Directors Bishop Joseph Dabrowski from the Diocese of London as our OAPCE Liaison Bishop appointed by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario. Bishop Dabrowski is invited to our BOD meetings and assists us as our Bishop Liaison and as our Spiritual Advisor, and we thank him immensely for his support and guidance.

This year has been a busy year in reaching out to the many stakeholders and parents in Catholic Education, with the new government our goal was to continue building new relationships with it and ensure that the parent voice is heard and represented.

Ensuring that our partners are aware of our mandate and ensuring that they understand the importance of our mutual relationships is an integral part in what we do, through attending the Institute for Catholic Education meetings to presentations at ACBO during their spring plenary as well as ongoing communication with all Partners. We continue to inform and share the OAPCE mission, vision and mandate.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ADVOCATE

- ✓ Welcome meeting with new Minister of Education Stephen Lecce.
- ✓ Open letter in relation to the collective bargaining process that was underway in fall of 2019.
- ✓ Meeting with Minister Lecce to discuss COVID and the impacts from March to June and plans for the next fiscal year.
- ✓ Conducted online surveys of parents across the province and outlined concerns to the Ministry.

ENHANCE

- ✓ Presented to our partner organization ACBO.
- ✓ Created new roles to ensure our Operations were managed appropriately.
- ✓ Participated in the hiring panel for the new Executive Director for ICE.
- ✓ Regular and ongoing communications with our partners to explore opportunities to collaborate.
- ✓ Provided support to OAPCE Regional Councils and parents across the province.

ENGAGE

- ✓ In response to COVID the Summit that was to be hosted in Halton region was re-imagined and offered virtually. In lieu of this we immediately used the virtual platform to utilize a webinar series.
- ✓ Attendance of the virtual offering had an excellent turn out of over 250 participants listening to several speakers on a variety of topics.
- ✓ Ensured ongoing information was given to OAPCE reps and parents through newsletter, emails and social media.

SPRING 2019

OAPCE celebrated its 80th Anniversary in the Spring of 2019. The Conference was held in Toronto and was hosted at Madonna High School. During the lunch hour OAPCE executives attended the Parent Rally at Queen's Park. There President Crudo-Perri, spoke ensuring the voice of Catholic Parents was heard loud and clear in support of continued negotiations between the province and the teachers union.

SUMMER 2019

Meeting of the Board of Directors to set the direction on the plan for memberships along with an update of the various documents to support the appointment and onboarding of directors. Financial review takes place and tax forms are filed.

FALL 2019

September and October meeting of the Board of Directors to outline an annual operations plan. Preparations for the Parent Summit to be hosted in Halton. New operating structure for the organization is tabled to include 3 positions to take over much of the work previously attempted by committees.

Advocacy to ensure that any collective bargaining negotiations continue to put the needs of children first.

WINTER 2020

Summit preparations continue. Speakers are confirmed, venue secured and promotion commences.

January meeting of the Board takes place and a new organizational structure is approved.

Collective bargaining is suspended as the pandemic reaches North America.

School Boards across the province extend March Break until Provincial authority confirm that students will not be returning to schools. Boards across the province scramble to support parents and children as virtual learning becomes the only option.

SPRING 2020

MAY 9TH, 2020 VIRTUAL PARENT SUMMIT

OAPCE was able to pivot and offered our Parent Summit virtually. We had over 150 parents attend via Zoom. Speakers included:

Sara Westbrook "Permission to Mess UP"

Paul Davis Part 1: "Online Safety for Kids" and Part 2: "Online safety for Adults and Seniors"

Webinar by Robert Gallo "Living our Virtues in and Virtual World"

Throughout the spring as the education landscape continues with uncertainty due to COVID 19, OAPCE continues advocacy roles and pressures the government to continue to support the school board with much needed funds to respond to the virtual learning needs across the province.

SUMMER 2020

Updating of annual membership letters and invoices. OAPCE commences initial revision of bylaws. The OAPCE Board of Directors meets with the Minister of Education to discuss issues facing parents and children as preparations are underway for what school will look like in the Fall of 2020.

LOOKING AHEAD

Given the way 2019/2020 ended in the midst of a pandemic, the face of education may look very different in the coming year. In June 2020, the Minister of Education required all publicly funded schools in Ontario to prepare for 3 possibilities that could be encountered in September 2020.

1. Continue with a distance learning approach presuming students are not able to attend schools in person.
2. Prepare for a full return to the classrooms returning to business as usual.
3. Prepare for a blended model of classroom and online learning. This option presumes students can return to in person classes while respecting social distancing.

OAPCE will

- ✓ Conduct regular surveys among the regions on topics and issues as they arise
- ✓ Continue to meet with the Minister to ensure that the parent voice is at the table.
- ✓ Continue to attend our partnership meetings and represent the parent voice.
- ✓ Enhance parent engagement by leveraging technology to maximize parent involvement in activities that support parents.
- ✓ Participate in Ministry of Education working tables to ensure the Catholic parent voice is represented and offer feedback.

We continue to move forward and re-envision our previous priorities through the lens of a world impacted by a pandemic. The current executive and the new roles are working towards reimagining our goals in a way that would support the current challenges posed by the pandemic.

- ✓ Create a multi year strategic plan that is aligned to supporting the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.
- ✓ Regions and their Directors will be looking to take a hands-on approach to the implementation of various activities in support of the strategic plan.
- ✓ Create a Parent Engagement Manual that is adaptable to all regions and parents.
- ✓ Explore creative and meaningful ways to utilize technology to enable province wide parent engagement.

Operationally the organization has reviewed with rigour our bylaws, policies and procedures to ensure they support the future needs of OAPCE in a fully virtual organization. The first step in this is to amend and update our by-laws for approval at the next AGM - from there we will re-examine all policies and procedures, streamline and organize them accordingly. This will ensure that everything is up to date and organized for future Directors and Admin.

As is reflected in the Catholic Graduate Expectations; the Christian vision of the human journey is best understood within the context of relationship. It is accomplished in community, in solidarity with brothers and sisters in the Church and beyond. The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education year-end report would not be complete without a sincere and heart-felt thank you, to our many Partners in Catholic Education and the Ontario School Boards that support us throughout this journey. Most importantly to all our parents across the province, from the north to the south and the east to the west - we are proud to represent you and hope to continue our advocacy of the Gift of Catholic Education for all our children, past and present.