



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association



ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE DES ÉVÊQUES CATHOLIQUES DE L'ONTARIO

MEMORANDUM

To: Ontario Catholic Education Organizations

From: Archbishop Thomas Collins, President
Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario
Nancy Kirby, President, *Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association*

Subject: Enhancement of Caring for All Students in the Spirit of the Gospel

Date: April 15, 2011

One reason why Catholic schools have for many years been a source of strength for our local communities, our province, and our country, is that they are animated by a spirit of inclusivity and equity rooted in the Gospel. We believe that every person, young or old, is to be treated with reverence; we are called to see the face of Christ in each person we meet, and to act accordingly.

This is why each person must be welcomed with kindness, respect and compassion and why, for us, bullying is wrong under any circumstances, at any age.

There has been much discussion recently surrounding one dimension of this issue, bullying related to sexual orientation. As an enhancement of the existing resources to support all students, we encourage Catholic school boards in Ontario to provide the opportunity for students who wish to do so to gather to address this dimension of bullying.

Guided by our faith, a committee that includes students, parents, trustees, educators, clergy and other members of our school community, working with the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE), will establish a framework for these groups, including a common name, to assist Catholic school boards with this anti-bullying initiative.

In addition, the committee will collect and share the best resources and practices that we have in our Catholic schools to combat bullying in any form and to be sure they are places of welcome according to the Gospel.

The committee will begin this work before the end of April, 2011. It is our hope that the initial results will be available to our school boards before the beginning of the next school year. In the meantime, we urge all members of our community to ensure that students are educated in a safe and caring environment that does not tolerate bullying or harassment of any kind and for any reason.