



COUNCIL OF ONTARIO DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION
CONSEIL ONTARIEN DES DIRECTIONS DE L'ÉDUCATION



Our Diversity is Our Strength

Our new school year is well underway, and we are excited to see our students learning and achieving in all areas of the curriculum.

We are sending this message today as a cohesive group of Directors of Education with responsibilities for the more than 2 million students in Ontario's publicly funded schools. The diversity of our students and staff is, and will always be, a source of strength within our school communities.

We know that at times, differences of perspectives in our communities and in the world around us can become sources of tension. This may lead to confusion, grief, and possibly hate. While we cannot control what happens on the global stage, you have our collective commitment that within our schools we strive to build environments where differences are recognized and accepted. We may not agree on everything, but our schools will remain places where listening, understanding and mutual respect will guide our interactions.

As Directors of Education, we not only affirm our dedication to creating safe, inclusive and welcoming spaces for our students and staff, but also to share our hope in a time when society can feel increasingly divided. We observe every single day the immense kindness, compassion, generosity and a shared desire to make our schools a better place for students to learn. When students are met with support and encouragement, they are empowered to explore their potential, take risks in their learning, and contribute positively to their school community.

Investing in the education of our children is an investment in a brighter, more peaceful future for all.