



REGIONAL REPORT

Region: Toronto

Directors: Lucy Goncalves and Joel Tecson

Date: April 2024

1. Toronto OAPCE emails checked and replied to weekly
2. OAPCE Toronto meeting with a Liaison Rep to discuss TCDSB policy on banned libraries and other books.

3. [**OAPCE 85th Conference Highlights \(April 13th\)**](#)

On Saturday, April 13, OAPCE's annual conference took place at Monsignor Percy Johnson Secondary School, Etobicoke celebrating its 85th Anniversary with the theme "A Celebration of Change, Commitment and Catholic Education".

Parents from across the province were able to come from all regions and included parents from across the province and over 15 school boards! Attendees were treated to a delightful day of discussion and connection with the focus on how parents can use our collective voice to Engage, Advocate, and Enhance Catholic Education in Ontario.

Highlights of the day included keynote and guest speakers; renowned hockey dad **Karl Subban**, Co-Executive Director **Joe Perri**, Institute of Catholic Education Executive Director, **Dr. Anne Jamieson**, Catholic Speaker & Musician **Chris Bray** and a surprise visit by **Ontario Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce**

The **celebration of Holy Mass** followed the conference and was held at St. Benedict's Parish, located next door to Monsignor Percey Johnson SS, and was presided by His Grace, Archbishop Francis Leo, Diocese of Toronto Archbishop, OAPCE Liaison Bishop Mathieu, St. Benedict Parish Priests Father Sean McEwan, Father Branden Gordon, as well as other priests. The Mass included

the commissioning of OAPCE Directors and representatives from across the province.

The conference Gala Dinner & Awards topped off the evening at the Sandman Signature Toronto Airport Hotel with Archbishop Leo as a Keynote speaker and awards ceremony. At the dinner the distinguished OAPCE awards were given out recognizing individuals, who in substantial ways, through their expertise, time and effort support the organization's principles to engage, advocate and enhance Catholic Education.

A full recap of the conference highlights can be found [HERE](#).

We congratulate all the Recipients and thank everyone for joining us in this milestone anniversary! Thanks again to all OAPCE supporters for an inspiring conference! We look forward to hosting parents from Toronto, and across the province again for our next annual conference in 2025!

4. Nurturing our Catholic Community (NCC) Meeting Notes (April 17th)

Update from the Archdiocese:

- new pastors ordained; some former students of TCDSB
- some pastors will be moved around, as new pastors are assigned schools
- change to take effect June 26
- draft of New Pastoral Plan continues to be worked on
- pastors nominating individuals for Michael Fullan Community Awards; ceremony on Sept 29, 2024
- all information available on [Archdiocese website](#)

Update from ShareLife:

- goal of raising 14 million, after 1st collection of the year: 3.9 million
- next collection at church will be at the end of April
- school may have collected week of March 22, others may collect funds during Catholic Education Week (May 6-10)
- [ShareLife](#) has bracelets available to send to schools if requested (while quantities last)

Update from [Angel Foundation](#):

- met with Bishop to discuss food insecurity in our schools

- joint venture to help raise funds to nutrition programs in schools
- advocating for more \$\$ for nutrition program via the Catholic Education Center's Social Committee
- presented at CPIC, supporting nutrition program initiatives
- Youth Summer Camp to run in the cities 3 top priority neighbourhoods
 - received 1,100 applications for 250 youth leader spots
 - looking for youth with leadership and problem solving skills

Update on Pastoral Plan:

- still in draft phase; being presented on May 30 at the Board Meeting
- new 3 year Pastoral Plan to be launched on June 4
- theme: In God's Image
 - Year 1 - Growing in knowledge
 - Year 2 - Growing in knowledge with justice
 - Year 3 - Growing in knowledge with justice and hope

Update from NCC Team:

- Young Disciples
 - 548 students from 15 schools participated
- A Catholic Call to Serve (A.C.C.T.S.)
 - April 30 at St. Michael's College
 - 100 secondary students to participate
- Catholic Education Week (CEW May 6-10); slide deck being created
- National Family & Life Week (May 13-19); slide deck being created
- Laudato Si' Week (May 19-26); slide deck being created to be distributed
- all resources will be available on [website](#) in May

5. TCDSB Surveys requesting parent/guardian feedback:

Cell phone Use in Classrooms Survey: As of November 2019, the use of cellphones and other personal mobile devices during instructional time is restricted as per the [Ontario government's rules](#). In response to a recent TCDSB Board motion, we are interested in gathering information about student's use of cellphones in schools during instructional time.

TCDSB Student Achievement Plan Survey: We have developed a comprehensive Student Achievement Plan aimed at evaluating student success across three pivotal areas including: Student Achievement, Preparation of Students for Future Success and Student Engagement and Well-Being. The proposed TCDSB Student Achievement Plan can be viewed [HERE](#).

OAPCE Issued a statement of support for the new Cell Phone and Vaping policy PPM 128 that can be found [HERE](#).

6. UPCOMING for OAPCE:

OAPCE Directors will be going to Queen's Park to meet with Minister of Education Stephen Lecce and Premier Ford to highlight OAPCE's 85th Anniversary.

7. Regional Updates/Key Points to bring back to your CSPC:

- *Encourage parents to complete 2 surveys mentioned above
- *Share monthly [Parents4Parents](#)
- *Encourage parents at CSPC to sign up for OAPCE distribution list
- *Encourage parents to visit OAPCE [website](#)

8. Our next OAPCE Toronto meetings are:

Tues June 4	in-person at the CEC 7pm
Mon June 10	virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM)