

YEAR END REPORT

**ONTARIO ASSOCIATION
OF PARENTS IN
CATHOLIC EDUCATION**



THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF PARENTS IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION (OAPCE) MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW AND BENEFITS FOR THE 2023-2024 YEAR

REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF IMPACTFUL ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

About OAPCE:

Since 1939, the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) has been a provincial not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting and protecting Catholic Education in Ontario. As the longest-standing parent organization for parents in Catholic Education since 1939, OAPCE is the only association recognized by the Ministry of Education in Ontario. In 2024, OAPCE proudly celebrates its 85th anniversary.

Vision

OAPCE is the voice of parents advocating for, promoting, and protecting publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario.

Mission

Our mission is to "Engage, Advocate, and Enhance" Catholic education at the provincial and regional levels through our collective voice, strengthening our partnerships across home, school, and church to ensure the parental voice is heard in education decisions.

UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES OF OAPCE

- Recognized by the Ministry of Education as the only Catholic parent association, mandated through Regulation 612 School Councils in the Education Act.
- Central mandate to provide parents with information and resources for making informed decisions on local school boards and Ministry of Education policies.
- Focus on ensuring faith remains central in schools, offering faith formation opportunities for parents.
- Advocate for parental rights and responsibilities in our children's Catholic Education.
- Regional OAPCE Committees that support and enhance parent engagement at the board level to improve student achievement, well-being and success.



ENGAGE

- Governed by a Board of Directors, OAPCE provides a platform for the parental perspective to be heard and represented at the regional and provincial level.
- OAPCE Liaison Representatives sit on local parent school councils to share all OAPCE information and then share with the regional committee and the provincial association to convey parents' viewpoints and concerns.
- Annual conferences and regional meetings offering valuable insights and information to parents.
- Collaboration with prominent Catholic education organizations in Ontario such as ICE, ACBO, CPCO, OCSTA, OECTA and many others.

ADVOCATE

- Meetings with Ministry of Education divisions, including Education Priorities and Engagement Branch, Student Achievement Division, Safe and Healthy Schools, and other key portfolios.
- Provides ongoing feedback, consultations and advocacy with the Ministry of Education on policies, curriculum reviews and parental engagement.
- Advocacy for Catholic Education and changes in publicly funded education through regular forums and initiatives with any organization and school boards.

OAPCE 85

ENHANCE

- Webinars, newsletters, and resources on the new OAPCE website for parents to navigate and share.
- Continuous engagement with media outlets such as the Catholic Register and other outlets.
- Faith formation opportunities for parents to enhance their faith journeys to help support their roles as parents.
- Opportunities for parent leadership development, skill-building and parent empowerment.



POSITION PAPER

This year we have created our Position Paper “Empowering Parents and Preserving Catholic Education: Ensuring Student Success and Well-Being in Ontario,” which emphasizes the critical importance of publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario and highlights the crucial role of parents as primary educators, advocating for their rights within the educational system.

[Position Paper](#) →

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

- Hosting the annual OAPCE Conference for Parents in Catholic education.
- Recognizing exceptional parent volunteers at awards ceremonies.
- Providing input and feedback to the Ministry of Education on educational policies and initiatives.
- Participating in consultations on religious curriculum and educational matters.
- Conducting the 'OAPCE Parent Survey' to gather valuable insights for guiding future activities.
- Engaging with the Ministry of Education on crucial parent concerns.
- Collaborating with key partners to enhance parent engagement.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

- Enhancing online presence through our online newsletter "Parents4Parents Press" blogs, faith and parent resources, and "OAPCE in Action" advocacy section.
- Launching a brand new website oapce.org (insert link here)
- Introducing new 85th-anniversary branding and logo.
- Participating in the Social Policy meeting at Queen's Park regarding the proposed Bill 98 of which several new Ministry of Education policies have been based upon.
- Attending Queen's Park legislature and meeting with Premier Ford.
- Continuing outreach to regions across the province, resulting in new Directors and parent involvement from several new regions.
- Onboarding new OAPCE Representatives from across the province.



BENEFITS OF OAPCE MEMBERSHIP FOR PARENTS

- Active involvement in shaping Catholic education policies and initiatives.
- Access to support, resources, webinars, and engaging events for parents.
- Opportunities for leadership development and networking.
- Representation through OAPCE in provincial educational discussions.
- Guidance and support for navigating the Ontario educational system.

Looking ahead, OAPCE expresses deep gratitude to our partners, Catholic School Board members, government officials, parents, caregivers, and stakeholders for their unwavering support. With a dedication to engage, advocate, and enhance Catholic education, OAPCE remains committed to serving the community and fostering a thriving educational atmosphere for all students in Ontario. Through the collaborative efforts of OAPCE and parents, Catholic education in Ontario will continue to flourish, offering students a comprehensive and enriching academic journey.



In summary, OAPCE remains a crucial voice for parents in Catholic education, advocating for a holistic, faith-based schooling experience and providing a platform for engagement, advocacy, and advancement in Ontario's educational communities. The organization's strong initiatives and partnerships with educational stakeholders ensure that parents have a primary role in shaping the future of Catholic education in the province. Here's to another year characterized by progress, influence, and unity as OAPCE and parents collaborate towards positive changes in Ontario's educational landscape.