

Message from the Chair of the Central Committee for Catholic School Councils

Welcome back to another school year. My name is Genevieve Rodney and I am privileged to once again assume the role of CCCSC - Central Committee for Catholic School Councils chair. A very special thank you to Pamela Olivieri for her dedication and leadership to parents and students through CCCSC during her time as chair. I am also very excited to work alongside Domonique Darmanin, as vice chair.

As you all know globally we are in unprecedented times with a lot of uncertainty. Situations like this can make people feel many ways, which is normal. The good news is that over 20 years ago the Dufferin Catholic School Board prepared for this. The board developed a council where parents could share information and collaborate with one another.

CCCSC was established in September 1997 and the goal has been and continues to be, to encourage and promote parent involvement within our Catholic schools. We facilitate the dissemination of information and promote communication among our Catholic school councils, schools, the Board and parishes.

My journey in becoming a member on councils and CCCSC was simple and humble. I was parent that wanted to be involved, give back to my community, and make a difference. Studies have connected parental involvement with improved school performance. Involved parents do many things to improve their schools from impacting student behavior through their presence to advocating for school improvement plans. *“When parents are involved in their children's education, everyone benefits – students, parents, teachers, schools and communities. Great schools can become even better places to teach and learn, and student achievement often improves” (ministryED)*. I am an advocate for student achievement and actively promote literacy and numeracy within our Catholic school system. I am a strong believer in parent involvement and social responsibility.

As this is my last year on council, I have had some time to reflect on my 10 years of being a part of this board and some great initiatives such as;

- Ministry of Education Literacy programs
- Ministry of Education video blogs
- EQAO think tanks
- School Council collaborations
- Market place events
- Webinars

I sincerely hope that this year will enable each school council to become actively involved in the life of their school communities. I would encourage every parent to become involved in the various opportunities that each of our Catholic schools and Catholic school councils present.

As our students move through our Catholic system they are guided to meet the Catholic graduate expectations. Our system has a strong faith history which incorporates the traditions of the Catholic Church and the gospel values. Though our students live in an ever-changing world of media and technology, it is our faith and human connections that bind us together. The need for a partnership between the home, school and parish has never been more important.

As this will be my last year on council, I wanted send my deepest gratitude to all of the parents, teachers and administrators that I had the pleasure walking and learning alongside of. I am proud of the works and efforts of our CCCSC committee members, but am even more proud of the work that you do as volunteers and Catholic School Council members within our elementary and secondary schools in Dufferin-Peel.

In closing, as our world evolves we will learn to adapt. Our faith in Catholic Education will be unwavering as we continue to unite.

Thank you for the ongoing gift of your time, talents and contributions.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Rodney

CCCSC, Chair

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. Colossians 3:16

