



Symposium Update

June 26, 2017

A HUGE THANK YOU!


We asked you to join in an important conversation about Catholic Education in the province of Ontario and you responded in a big way!

Participants, both French and English, were asked to offer their thoughts in response to three open-ended questions:

- 1) What are some ways that Catholic education in Ontario supports students to be living witnesses to their faith in Jesus Christ?
- 2) What are some current challenges facing Catholic education in Ontario?
- 3) What are some opportunities for Catholic education in Ontario that will help shape a positive future?

By the Numbers:

When the consultation process closed on Friday, June 23, 2017, the Thoughtexchange had registered 7,962 discrete participants to the engagement exercise. A HUGE thank you is extended to all who participated and the school boards and partner organizations that did so much to encourage participation.

 PEOPLE 7,962	PARENT	2,819
	STUDENT	497
	SUPPORT STAFF – NON TEACHING	593
 THOUGHTS 24,394	CLERGY	123
	TRUSTEE	159
	ADMINISTRATOR	1,142
 STARS 478,249	TEACHER	2,221
	COMMUNITY MEMBER	395

While the symposium on November 14-15, 2017 will bring together approximately 750 participants including all 29 English Catholic school boards, 8 French Catholic school Boards and a number of individuals representing organizations across the Catholic educational community, the Pre-Symposium consultation provides for the broadest possible participation and representation from across the province, and ensures that all voices and all perspectives have been heard, and will be represented.

What's next?

The data will be collated, categorized and analyzed by *Thoughtexchange* and provided to ICE and OPECO. This comprehensive snapshot, reflecting the lived experience of those involved in Catholic education today, as well as their perceptions of particular challenges and opportunities, will serve as the basis for the specific conversation that will unfold when Board teams gather to participate in the Symposium in November.

Preliminary data collected from our consultation will be shared with school board teams early in the fall of 2017. The symposium will provide an opportunity for a deeper exploration of the data. Ultimately, a comprehensive summary and analysis of the consultation will be available to all interested stakeholders, and will be posted on the ICE website.



Preparing for the Symposium

In the fall, an information package will be provided to you, for use by your Board team, in preparation for the symposium. You may wish to set dates now, planning to meet as a Board team at least once during September or October. A resource package, and some guiding questions will be provided to school Boards to assist in starting your local dialogues.

This initial meeting for your team begins the process of sharing, and exploring the emergent ideas and themes from across the province with the participants at the *Renewing the Promise* consultation process. When Board teams gather in Toronto on November 14th for the symposium we will expand upon the provincial snapshot, and go deeper in the discussion exploring particular challenges and opportunities that have emerged.

While the information package prepared and distributed to Boards will focus on the provincial picture, each individual school board will receive information about your local insights, concerns and emergent themes as well. This information will be of interest to you as a point of reference as you explore similarities and differences between local and provincial patterns and trends, and may be of use to support board strategic planning and board improvement planning process.

Action Steps



Plan now to bring your local team together for one or two meetings prior to the symposium in November.



You may also wish to set several meeting dates subsequent to the symposium (February, April) as we anticipate follow-up discussion and local action planning will flow from this provincial conversation



Catholic Education Week 2018 has adopted the theme "Renewing the Promise".



The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario intend to release a pastoral letter "Renewing the Promise" in the spring of 2018.



The next *Symposium Update* will be released to Boards on Monday, August 28, 2017. Best wishes for a safe & relaxing summer with family and friends! Rejuvenate, replenish and restore!

ONLINE REGISTRATIONS: *Be sure to register your Board Team!!*

Boards are encouraged to register Board teams online using the Intelliga platform **as soon as possible**. Should you be using placeholders for those team members that have not been identified, please ensure that you allocate the appropriate role for the individual (i.e. Elementary School Council, Diocesan Rep, OECTA Secondary Unit President, etc). Your continued diligence in this area will inform the Symposium planning team and assist with the planning process to continue throughout the summer months. Boards are encouraged to update your Board team registrations as soon as the information becomes available. Your assistance is very much appreciated! Any questions regarding registration can be directed to Michael O'Keefe (mpbokeefe@gmail.com).

SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION FEES

It is anticipated that Boards will be invoiced throughout the summer months with payment due **by Friday, September 15, 2017**. Boards have the option to pay the Board team registration fee from the current budget year (2016-2017). If this is your preference, please contact Helen Murphy-Hage (office@iceont.ca) so that timely invoicing can be provided.

QUESTIONS? Contact: renewingthepromise@iceont.ca