



**Waterloo Region District School Board**

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March 1, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2  
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

At its meeting on January 29, 2024, the Board of Trustees for the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB), agreed to write to you to express support for the Bluewater District School Board letter dated January 16, 2024 regarding gambling advertisements.

The letter shared a number of concerns regarding gambling:

- The proliferation of gambling advertising, particularly during sports telecasts, has resulted in an alarming number of children and young adults becoming addicted to gambling;
- Gambling can lead to significant harm, including runaway debt, stress to families, low self-esteem, anxiety, depression, and even suicide;
- Statistics Canada has estimated that 1.6% of adult gamblers, more than 300,000 Canadians, are at moderate to high risk of gambling disorders; and much information on the insidious result of these advertisements can be found at [BanAdsForGambling.ca](http://BanAdsForGambling.ca);

The WRDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan has a focus on support for student well-being, as such, the WRDSB supports a legislative ban on advertisements for gambling in Canada in all media and respectfully requests the federal government consider this recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Weston".

Joanne Weston  
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees  
Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: WRDSB Trustees and Student Trustees  
Ontario Public School Boards' Association Member Board Chairs  
Local Members of Parliament