

June 21, 2021

The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
315 Front Street West, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON, M7A 0B8

Dear Minister Lecce,

Waterloo Region District School Board's (WRDSB) Student Trustees have asked the Board of Trustees to write a letter in support of the Toronto Youth Cabinet's call for "the Province of Ontario and all 72 school boards to require free and accessible menstrual products in all publicly funded Ontario elementary and secondary schools."

At its meeting on May 31, 2021, the Board of Trustees for the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) approved the following motion to support the Student Trustees' request:

That the WRDSB write a letter to the ministry expressing our support of Toronto Youth Cabinet's call for free and accessible menstrual products in all Ontario school boards.

A 2019 report by Plan International Canada found "63% of women and girls have regularly or occasionally missed an activity because of their period and concerns about not being able to access menstrual hygiene products or proper facilities" and "almost six in ten (58 per cent) have felt the need to lie about being on their period or hide a menstrual product."

In the WRDSB, 88% of secondary schools report that period poverty currently exists in schools in Waterloo Region. Period poverty refers to having a lack of access to sanitary products due to financial constraints. It affects a person's whole life, school, work, social and community life.

Minister Lecce, we ask for your support to end period poverty and the stigma associated with menstruation and menstrual products. We ask you to promote equity and well being for all students, by providing equitable access to free menstrual products in all Ontario school boards.

Sincerely,



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

CC:
MPP Belinda Karahalios
MPP Laura Mae Lindo

MPP Amy Fee
MPP Michael Harris
MPP Catherine Fife
Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Ontario Public School Boards
Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO)

Sent by email: minister.edu@ontario.ca



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