

March 11, 2019

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
1850-439 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1Y8

Dear OPSBA,

Recently, our Board of Trustees approved a motion to send a letter to Premier Ford regarding the decision to repeal the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Act.

On November 15, 2018, the Provincial government announced that the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Act would be repealed and the Office of the Ombudsman would assume the duties of this office. This decision will leave Ontario as one of the only provinces without an independent child advocate.


This Provincial Advocate is an independent officer of the Ontario legislature and provides an independent voice, including First Nations, children and youth. They educate children, youth, and their caregivers on the rights of children and youth. They make connections between families and organizations that provide them with services while encouraging dialogue and communication.

In addition, they conduct investigations and make recommendations to children's aid societies and services provided by residential licensees where a children's aid society is the placing agency.

The Advocate's review and investigations have helped to identify gaps and failures in the system, that have put children and youth at risk.

We request that OPSBA and our member Boards support our decision to send a letter to Premier Ford by sending their own letter. The children and youth of Ontario deserve to have their voices heard and know they are protected.

Sincerely,



Jayne Herring,
Chairperson, Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: Chairs of all District School Boards



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