



August 21, 2019

Statement from Bishop Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB, President of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario re: Revised Health & Physical Education Curriculum

The government has today released a revised health and physical education curriculum, which introduces minor changes to aspects of the curriculum dealing with human development and human sexuality. Our publicly funded Catholic schools have a responsibility to follow the curriculum set out by the Ministry of Education, but we have always carried out this responsibility in a manner that conveys, respects and models Catholic principles to our students. We will continue this tradition.

As Catholics, we believe that parents and guardians are the primary educators of their children. The parental role in the teaching of family life issues is vital. Publicly funded Catholic schools in our province have provided a family life curriculum consistent with our faith for more than 30 years. Family Life education is an important part of the Religious Education program offered in Catholic classrooms

Fully Alive/Vivre Pleinement is the family life program sponsored and developed with the approval of the Catholic Bishops of Ontario in collaboration with educators and families, and ensures that the family life curriculum in Ontario's Catholic schools is consistent with our Catholic teachings, appropriate within the context of our Catholic classrooms, and complementary to the efforts of parents to guide their children to full Christian maturity. Catholic teachers will continue to present the issue of human sexuality within the fullness of a faith-based family life curriculum that teaches the content of our faith, the value of persons, human relationships, commitment, and social responsibility.

Within the family, the experience of generous and unconditional love provides children with valuable and fundamental lessons in life that cannot be learned anywhere else. Our Catholic schools seek to do all they can to support families as they fulfil this awesome responsibility. Schools, parents and parishes must continue to work together to provide students with an education that is founded in the Gospel of Jesus and reflects a Catholic worldview.

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[Background: Since 1989, the Institute for Catholic Education \(ICE\) has coordinated the implementation of the family life curriculum in publicly funded Catholic schools. As revisions to the provincial Health and Physical Education curriculum are introduced, ICE will continue to work cooperatively with the Ministry of Education, Catholic educators, and parents to ensure that appropriate classroom and teacher resources are available.](#)

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