

1. Purpose

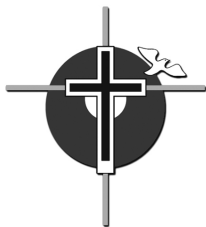
Communication with the Ontario government is an important activity to identify, discuss and find solutions to policy and financial issues. The Board is committed to focus its discussions and communication with the Ontario government in an honest and respectful manner, in support of its distinctive Catholic mission.

2. Guidelines

- 2.1 Focus on ongoing communication between school boards and government through established mechanisms and channels.
- 2.2 Avoid basing communications on personal or political agendas.
- 2.3 Maximize resources for student success and achievement.
- 2.4 On a very limited occasion there may be some issues that are of a local character for which individual boards may need to lobby the government directly. Democratically elected trustees need to retain the ability to approach government directly on those matters.

3. Procedure

- 3.1 Expenditures for advocacy are subject to the following procedures:
 - i.) Expenditures for advocacy must be in keeping with the intent of the guiding principles and must be pre-approved by the Director and Chair of the Board.
 - ii) Advocacy expenditures require a statement of rationale and the approval of the Board of Trustees.
- 3.2 Suitable advocacy expenditures include:
 - i) Membership dues and fees to trustee, school board or professional associations.
- 3.3 Inappropriate advocacy expenditures include but are not limited to the following:
 - i) Placing content intended to advocate for a particular position with report cards and annual reports.
 - ii) Using students as vehicles for board or school advocacy to the public, education partners and governments.



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ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

C3:2
Business – Expenditure Guidelines
ADVOCACY EXPENDITURE GUIDELINES
Page 2 of 2

- iii) Use of board funds to attend events for specific political parties.
- iv) Any other expenditures which are not in keeping with advocating financial and policy related issues or which is not deemed acceptable or appropriate to Board business, by the Board of Trustees.