



**THUNDER BAY CATHOLIC**  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**Honourable Doug Ford**

Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queens Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

**Honourable Stephen Lecce**

Ontario Ministry of Education  
5th Floor, 438 University Avenue,  
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8  
[minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)

**Dr. David Williams**

Chief Medical Officer of Health  
21st Floor, 393 University Avenue  
Toronto, ON M5G 2M2  
[dr.david.williams@ontario.ca](mailto:dr.david.williams@ontario.ca)

**Honourable Christine Elliott**

Minister of Health  
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
[christine.elliott@ontario.ca](mailto:christine.elliott@ontario.ca)

*\* sent via email*

**April 12, 2021**

Dear Premier Ford, Minister Lecce, Dr. Williams and Minister Elliott,

Our Board would like to thank you for the effort of your team and yourselves through this extremely challenging time. We would personally like to acknowledge the continued support we have received from our own Health Unit here in Thunder Bay. Their guidance, composure and professionalism has been invaluable throughout this difficult situation.

We admire our Board administration, who proactively wrote to our local Health Unit on March 3, detailing the need for vaccinations for all education workers within our city.

We understand that you and your team have developed a plan for the next stages of vaccination for Southern Ontario Education workers. On behalf of our School Board, we highly recommend all employees within our educational community across the province receive the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible to keep our staff, students and schools safe.

School Board employees across the province serve many roles. Our employees span beyond teaching and administrative roles. We are: Teachers, Principals, Secretaries, Custodians, Early Childhood Educators, Student Support Professionals, Board Staff, Bus Drivers, Speech Language Pathologists, Social Workers, Counsellors, Chaplains and Lunchroom Supervisors, just to name many of our employee groups.

We interact daily together and with our students. All employees in our schools and offices require the opportunity to be vaccinated as soon as possible in order to protect our students, and to keep our schools open.

We are hopeful this is already a part of your plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Veneruz', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Francis Veneruz**

Chair of the Board

Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board

*Trustee Eleanor Ashe*

*Trustee Lawrence Badanai*

*Trustee Dina McFarlane*

*Trustee Kathy O'Brien*

*Trustee Phil Pelletier*

Cc.

Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister of Education

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Federal Minister of Health

Michael Gravelle - MPP

Marcus Powlowski - MPP

Judith Monteith-Farrell - MPP

Aldo Grillo - OECTA Elementary Thunder Bay, President

Carlo Cappello - OECTA Secondary, Thunder Bay President

Maureen Denford-Cox - OSSTF President D6A Thunder Bay

Kari Jefford - UNIFOR President Local 229

Diana Baker - COPE President Local 454