

October 8, 2008

Mr. Marc Mayrand  
Chief Electoral Officer of Canada  
Elections Canada  
257 Slater Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0M6

VIA – FAX – 1-888-524-1444

Dear Mr. Mayrand

I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention a problem that has occurred as a result of the October 14<sup>th</sup> Federal election. The Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) represents Ontario parents in Catholic education across the province. Over the last few weeks our office has received calls regarding public “polling stations” being placed in schools on October 14<sup>th</sup> or for advance polling dates. Parents are expressing their serious concerns about the safety of their children when the public is being allowed to enter the schools in our province to cast their ballot.

Ontario schools are working hard each day to make their schools “safe” for all who work, learn and participate in them. Allowing public voting polls in these schools is jeopardizing the overall safety of the school. I am not sure if Elections Canada has given this serious thought prior to placing polling stations in Ontario’s publicly funded schools? As a representative of the Ontario Parents, I ask that for future elections, Elections Canada not use our publicly funded schools for voting purposes.

I realize that for this election action cannot be taken to move polling stations out of our schools in Ontario, however I would hope that Elections Canada will work with the local school boards to ensure the safety of those who attend and work in our schools. OAPCE requests that the Chief Electoral Officer for Elections Canada will take the decision not to house polling stations in Ontario publicly funded schools and that the decision will become policy in the policy book for Elections Canada in the future. Also by copy of this correspondence to the Chief Electoral Officer for Elections Ontario, Mr. Greg Essensa, OAPCE is requesting that his office consider instituting the same policy for provincial and municipal elections.

OAPCE appreciates your efforts in helping to make those who work and attend our publicly funded schools safe. I am pleased to expand on this further through a telephone conversation or a meeting at your convenience.

Sincerely



Brian C. Evoy  
President - OAPCE

Cc: Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education, Ontario  
Mr. Greg Essensa, Chief Electoral Officer, Elections Ontario  
Elaine McNeil, President, OECTA  
Joan Duckitt, President, CPO  
Paula Peroni, President, OCSTA