

Memo issued by Stephen Lecce, Ontario Minister of Education, to the Ontario school boards following the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) decision on May 29, 2023 to not fly the pride flag for Pride Month in June.

Chairs of District School Boards
Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities
From: Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
Subject: Pride Month in Ontario

June 1 marks the beginning of Pride month in Ontario and around the world. For many, Pride is a time to celebrate the things that make us unique and special, to look to community for acceptance and support and to demonstrate our commitment to making every single person feel welcome.

Recognizing that many 2SLGBTQ+ students face increasing levels of bullying, harassment, and mental health issues, it is my expectation that school boards will redouble their efforts to protect these students and ensure their inclusion within Ontario schools.

It is incumbent on all school boards to ensure all students – most especially 2SLGBTQ+ students – feel supported, reflected in their schools, and welcomed within our communities. That includes celebrating Pride in a constructive, positive and meaningful ways to affirm that 2SLGBTQ+ students know that their educators and staff, school board administrators, and government stand with them.

We firmly believe that all publicly funded schools must be safe spaces for all children, regardless of race, heritage, faith, sexuality, and gender.

My message to children in our schools, particularly 2SLGBTQ+ students is that Ontario's government sees them, values them, and we are proud to stand with them.