

June 1, 2015

Ms. Angela Gauthier
Director of Education
Toronto Catholic District School Board
80 Sheppard Avenue East
Toronto, ON M2N 6E8

Dear Angela:

At the request of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, the Institute for Catholic Education has begun the task of developing resources to assist teachers, principals and Catholic School Boards in the implementation of the recently revised Health and Physical Education (HPE) curriculum. Writing teams have been established, and classroom teachers, consultants, program coordinators and administrators from Catholic Boards across the province will be working throughout the summer to produce the required materials. The overall project will be coordinated by Cathy Horgan, previously director of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board.

My purpose in writing to you at this time is to provide information about the kinds of materials and resources that will be produced, the process that will be followed to develop, vet and approve the materials, and the tentative timelines for the availability of these resources, in order to better assist you with your planning and preparation for next year.

RESOURCES

The resources to be developed generally fall into three broad categories:

1. Elementary Program Supports
2. Secondary Program Supports
3. Communication and Leadership Supports

1. **Elementary Program Supports** – The intention is to provide materials that will assist elementary teachers to deliver all general and specific expectations of the Human Development and Sexual Health component of the Healthy Living strand of the Health and Physical Education curriculum within the approved Family Life Education program. Specific resources will include:
 - Identification of curriculum links between the revised Health and Physical Education curriculum (Grades 1-8) and *Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations*.
 - Identification of curriculum links between the new Grades 1-8 Health and Physical Education curriculum (specifically the Human Development and Sexual Health component of the Healthy Living strand), the *Family Life Education Curriculum Policy Document (2012)* followed in all Catholic Schools, and the *Fully Alive* resource series.

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- Supplementary teacher resources and classroom instructional materials to augment the Family Life Education curriculum will be updated and expanded to align with the revised Health and Physical Education curriculum, 2015 (Grades 1-8) to deliver all general and specific expectations of the Human Development and Sexual Health component of the Healthy Living strand. **Materials will include appropriate examples and teacher prompts to correspond with each expectation, and will include 'supplements' to the teacher resource binders for each grade, grades 1-8 of the *Fully Alive* series**, allowing teachers to seamlessly integrate these supports into their existing *Fully Alive* teacher resources.
2. **Secondary Program Supports** – The intention is to provide materials that will assist secondary teachers to deliver all general and specific expectations of the HPE curriculum. Resources will be developed both for the use of Secondary Physical Education teachers, and for teachers of Religious Education. Specific resources will include:
- Identification of curriculum links between the revised Health and Physical Education curriculum (Grades 9-12) and *Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations*.
 - Identification of curriculum links between the revised Grades 9-12 Health and Physical Education curriculum and *Secondary Religious Education Curriculum – Grades 9-12 (2006)* (currently under revision).
 - Supplementary teacher resources and classroom instructional materials, for Religious Education and Health and Physical Education courses, grade by grade. **Materials will model appropriate examples and teacher prompts to correspond with specific expectations of the Human Development and Sexual Health component of the Healthy Living strand in the Health and Physical Education curriculum.**
3. **Communication and Leadership Materials** – The intention is to gather, share and develop resources for school and system administrators to support local initiatives building capacity, and supporting implementation of Health and Physical Education curriculum. Specific resources will include:
- Communication materials to introduce the curriculum expectations and demonstrate linkages between Health and Physical Education, Grades 1-8 and Grades 9-12, the *Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations*, the Family Life Education curriculum, *Fully Alive*, and other Catholic resources.
 - Materials will include parent pamphlets, brochures, and guides for working with parents and community stakeholders, and video resources. Print materials will be made available to you in electronic files, in a format that will enable Boards to insert board name and logo, prior to posting on websites, distributing electronically, or printing locally for distribution.
 - Communication materials for school and system administrators to support local initiatives to build capacity, and support implementation of Health and Physical Education curriculum. Resources will include template presentations that might be used or adapted to provide inservice to principals, and for principals to use in working with school staff, and parent communities.

VETTING AND APPROVAL PROCESS

The majority of the classroom resources will be developed through July and August of this year, and will be subject to review by a panel of theologians, appointed to the task by Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, in his capacity as President of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO). Once reviewed by the theological review panel, the materials will then be vetted by the Education Commission of the Bishops in September, 2015, and subsequently presented to the ACBO plenary in October 2015.

TIMELINES

Classroom resources will be released and distributed to school boards throughout the 2015-2016 school year, with the first wave of resources to be ready for distribution in late October, after the approval process has been completed. As the themes within the *Fully Alive* program, which deal most directly with issues of human development and sexuality, are most typically delivered in the Spring, **most materials will be available 3-4 months prior to teachers using materials in their classrooms,** which will allow ample time for inservice at the school board level.

As resources are developed and approved, they will be released to school boards through a memo from ICE to the Directors of Education. The materials will also be available on the ICE website (www.iceont.ca).

Communication materials, and the presentations supporting school and system leaders, will be available by the third week of August, 2015, allowing time for local review, adaptation as appropriate, printing and distribution and still be available for use early in 2015-2016, at venues such as September curriculum evenings.

I hope this helps to clarify the process currently underway in the development of the Catholic resources to support the revised HPE curriculum. The plan outlined above will ensure that the resources developed will be carefully crafted, vetted and deemed by our Bishops as appropriate for use in our Catholic schools. We remain confident that the revised HPE curriculum will be delivered in our Catholic classrooms in a way that is faithful to our Catholic teachings.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like clarification on this project.

Sincerely



Michael W. Pautler
Executive Director