Motion to delay implementation of the "2015 Health and Physical Education Curriculum" for one year for parental consultation

WHEREAS, concerned parents and ratepayers across Ontario have signed public petitions with over 100,000 signatures rejecting the current "Health and Physical Education Curriculum" due to its "graphic content";

WHEREAS, the Government of Ontario promised parents that the government would consult with the people of Ontario on a new sex-education program;

WHEREAS, the contents of the 2015 "Health and Physical Education Curriculum" as presented has unified Ontarians from all cultural and religious backgrounds, in denouncing age inappropriate, explicit content that specifically contradicts Catholic moral teaching, the text:

- in Grade 6 (age 11) describes masturbation as a pleasurable thing that is not harmful
- in Grade 7 (age 12) promotes anal and oral sex at an inappropriate age;
- the text:
 - a) never mentions "love" at all,
 - b) thus removes sexual education from notions of love, commitment and marriage;
 - c) rarely refers children to their parents as the primary consultants for their children's decisions about their sexual activities.

WHEREAS, the decision of the Province and the Catholic Bishops of Ontario to assign to the Institute of Catholic Education (ICE) the task of producing teaching resources to deal with the inappropriate material is an implicit concession that the curriculum contradicts Catholic teaching and is not appropriate for Catholic children;

WHEREAS, the Halton Catholic District School Board believes that if the material is harmful to Catholic children, then it is harmful to <u>all</u> children, and the Halton Catholic School Board stands in solidarity with all people of goodwill, from any cultural or faith community;

WHEREAS, Catholic school trustees have the exclusive constitutional mandate to adapt Ministry of Education curricula to ensure that it does not contradict Catholic teaching;

Be it resolved that: the Halton Catholic District School Board will delay the implementation of the 2015 "Health and Physical Education Curriculum" until September 2016 to allow parents, trustees, board officials and all interested ratepayers the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the program and provide feedback on the program, and until further consultation with parents, religious and cultural leaders takes place to resolve the reasonable and serious concerns tens of thousands of people in Halton and across Ontario have with this program.