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## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Google Meet Link: [meet.google.com/csg-kssu-gvn](https://meet.google.com/csg-kssu-gvn)

6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Chairperson: Arlene Godby

Vice-chairperson: Melissa Gillespie

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TRUSTEES/MEMBERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING ARE ASKED TO PLEASE NOTIFY VICKI BLAKELY (705) 748-4861 EXT. 1213
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### A. Call to Order:

1. Land Acknowledgment: Kelly Smigielski

As we continue to learn together in these exceptional circumstances, I (we) would like to acknowledge, as we do at school, that this land on which we live and learn daily, is the traditional territory of the Michi Saagig (Mississauga) Anishnaabe. All of PVNC Catholic District School Board lies within the Williams Treaty territory and we are all Treaty people. We offer our gratitude to the First Peoples of this land who continue to care for, and share their teachings about, our earth and our relations. May we honour those teachings.

2. Opening Prayer: Kelly Smigielski

3. Motion to Approve Agenda

4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

5. Motion for Excusal from Attendance

R.A. That, Sandra Scott, \_\_\_\_\_ be excused from attendance at the March 25, 2021 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

6. Motion for Approval of the Minutes of the February 18, 2021 Meeting.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes:

### B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. PVNCCDSB Strategic Priorities: Director of Education, Joan Carragher

2. Remarks: Chairperson, Arlene Godby
3. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education Services, Laurie Corrigan
4. Update from Trustees

**C. Discussion Items:**

A. SEAC Meeting Presentations:

1. Mental Health Strategies and Support for Students – Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds, Board Psychologist, Jennifer Angelo, Mental Health Lead, and Mandy Hamu, Mental Health Lead

From Presentations:

- i. What are the key learnings from the presentation?
- ii. What do parents need to know?
- iii. What options exist to get this information to parents?
- iv. How can SEAC support parents in this process?
- v. What can your associations/organizations add specifically to the learning today if any?

2. PAAC Survey Results

Discussion Questions:

- i. What surprised you in the survey results?
- ii. What promising practices are suggested?
- iii. How are they reflected at PVNC and what could be considered?

B. Correspondence Items:

1. HPEDSB – Letter to HPEPH Medical Officer of Health re: Prioritization of vaccinations during Phase II in support of students with Special Education Needs and their staff (attached)

C. Information Items:

1. Autism Ontario re: Statement on Guilty Verdict in Toronto Van Attack Trial has Lasting Implications for Autism Community (attached)
2. Empowered Kids Ontario – Scholarship Applications (attached)
3. Community Living Trent Highlands – Update (attached)
4. PYS & NCC – New Partnership (attached)
5. Ontario – Employment Project for Youth with Disabilities (attached)
6. CCRC – Peaceful Families – Virtual Group (attached)
7. Grandview Kids – Update (attached)
8. Autism Ontario Peterborough – Update (attached)
9. Autism Ontario: Raise the Flag and World Autism Day During Covid-19 – As we excitedly plan and prepare for World Autism Day and Raise the Flag 2021, we are committed to promoting the safety of our community above all else. It is highly unlikely that we will be able to gather in large groups for the usual flag-

raising ceremonies, so we encourage everyone to recognize the day creatively – in your living room, backyard, on a Zoom call – any way you’d like! Because World Autism Day, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, is on Good Friday this year, we will be celebrating on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

D. Old Business:

E. New Business:

**D. Next Meeting:**

1. **2020-2021 Meeting Dates:**

Thursday, April 29, 2021 – Role of EA Facilitator and Itinerant EA’s

Thursday, May 27, 2021 – Teacher of the Blind

Thursday, June 17, 2021 – Role of the Special Education Consultant

Budget & Spec. Ed. Staffing, and Special Education Plan Review

10<sup>th</sup> Meeting PD/TBD

Location: Virtually

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

2. Selection of Members for Territorial Recognition, Opening and Closing Prayers

**E. Conclusion:**

1. Closing Prayer: Melissa Gillespie

2. Adjournment



February 19, 2021

Dr. Piotr Oglaza, Medical Officer of Health  
Hastings Prince Edward Public Health  
179 North Park Street  
Belleville ON K8P 4P1

Dear Dr. Oglaza:

**Re: Prioritization of vaccinations during Phase II in support of students with Special Education Needs and their staff**

As staff and students in Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board (HPEDSB) and the rest of the province pivot between face-to-face and remote learning, members of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) would like to request the Ministry of Health and our local health unit to strengthen its commitment to ensuring the health and safety of students and HPEDSB employees who work directly with students with high special needs, in regional and self-contained placements. Further, we wish to impress upon the Ministry and our local health experts the urgent need to provide students who are of appropriate age and their staff, with access to vaccinations as quickly as possible.

It is important to note that many students within our regional programs are adults and not children. These adult learners often have underlying health conditions, comorbidities (e.g., developmental disabilities such as Down's syndrome, spina bifida etc.) and would benefit from vaccines whether they reside in group home settings, or at home with parents/guardians.

Employees who work on a day-to-day basis within regional classrooms are at high risk for potential infection due to the proximity they must have with students and other staff. Students often routinely require assistance with eating, bathroom support, and transferring or lifting in order to access their programming. Employees are in effect, required to be in close proximity to their students, which adds to the risk of transmission. We value the added responsibilities that these individuals take on and feel they should have access to vaccination programs and information as early as possible.

In conclusion, we stress to the Ministry that, while we understand that there is a phased approach being employed and that resources have been put in place to ensure that vulnerable populations receive their vaccines in a priority sequence, we would also appreciate that our district leaders be informed of procedural steps as soon as possible so that these can be shared with our employees and families.

Sincerely,

*Kelly Allan*

Kelly Allan, Chair,  
Special Education Advisory Committee  
Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board

*Jason Sweet*

Jason Sweet, Vice-chair  
Special Education Advisory Committee  
Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board

c.c. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health  
Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education  
Daryl Kramp, MPP Hastings-Lennox & Addington  
Todd Smith, MPP Bay of Quinte  
Lucille Kyle, Chair of the Board  
Lee-Anne Kerr, Chair, Parent Involvement Committee  
Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees



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# Statement by Autism Ontario: Guilty Verdict in Toronto Van Attack Trial has Lasting Implications for Autism Community

March 03, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Toronto, Ontario, March 3, 2021

**Statement by Autism Ontario: Guilty Verdict in Toronto Van Attack Trial has Lasting Implications for Autism Community**

## Statement by Autism Ontario: Guilty Verdict in Toronto Van Attack Trial has Lasting Implications for Autism Community

**Download the PDF.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Toronto, Ontario – March 3, 2021 - With today's verdict, there are no winners, but a measure of justice has been served for the families of those murdered: Beutis Renuka Amarasinghe, Andrea Knafelc Bradden, Geraldine Brady, So He Chung, Anne Marie D'Amico, Mary Elizabeth Forsyth, Chul Min Kang, Ji Hun Kim, Munir Najjar, and Dorothy Sewell. We also recognize those whose lives have been forever altered by the injuries inflicted through attempted murder: Xiaolong An, So Ra, Hyeon Jeong Moon, Jun Seok Park, Mavis Justino, Robert Anderson, Amir Kiumarsi, Aleksandra Kozhevinikova, Catherine Riddell, Dina Risin, Yunsheng (Bob) Tian, Morgan Anthony McDougall, Samantha Peart, Sammantha Samson, Beverly Smith, and Amaresh Tesfamariam.

While we are relieved by Justice Anne Molloy’s decision that the van attacker is criminally responsible and that his autism was not accepted as a defense, the damage to the autism community has already been done. The autism community in Ontario has found itself pushing back against the stigma we thought we had made progress on removing in the past few decades. We are concerned about the potential ramifications of this defense being used in future cases, and the difficulties this will cause for autistic people and their families.

Many members of our community have reached out to express their thoughts on the case and how it has impacted their lives. “I am concerned for the potential employment opportunities for our adult children on the spectrum,” says parent Doris Barkley. “Will employers see our children as risks and prefer not to employ them? My experience with my son of 23 is that he is more compassionate, caring and polite than most his age. He knows what is right and wrong and would never hurt someone willingly.”

Autism Ontario is alarmed by the long-term implications of this case. We reaffirm that autism was not the cause behind the tragic events of that day; hatred of women and social environments where misogynistic ideology is allowed to flourish were factors which led to the attacker’s socially constructed identity as an incel. His horrific and planned actions on that day reflect this toxic ideology.

The stigmatization of people with disabilities or mental health conditions is not the answer. To prevent tragedies like this one from occurring, proactive anti-misogynistic and anti-ableist work which promotes societal transformation must be woven into our community, education and social programs, as well as mental health supports. Only then can we begin to heal.

For more information, email our media team at [\*\*media@autismontario.com\*\*](mailto:media@autismontario.com)

About Autism Ontario: Autism Ontario has an over 47-year history of representing thousands of families and people on the autism spectrum across Ontario. We are the only organization in Ontario that has elected volunteer parent representation through our 25 Chapters in key regions across Ontario. We advocate with and on behalf of all people on the autism spectrum and their families – at all ages and stages of life, reflecting a wide range of expression and abilities. To connect with us, visit [www.autismontario.com](http://www.autismontario.com)

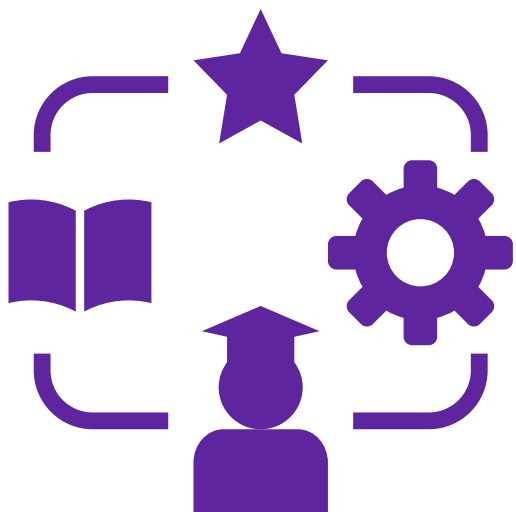
# APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED FOR EMPOWERED KIDS ONTARIO SCHOLARSHIPS OF \$2,500 EACH!

Six awards up to \$2,500 are available to qualifying students. Selection criteria includes demonstrated leadership in school and/or community, a personal statement, and recommendations by school and community mentors.

The EKO Scholarship Program helps kids with disabilities go after their dreams, providing support for education and career goals.

This scholarship helps remarkable young people who have been clients of an EKO member organization to attend college, university, Indigenous Institutes or pursue a career training program. In addition to empowering Ontario youth, EKO hopes to decrease the unemployment bias for this demographic. This year EKO is pleased to offer a sixth scholarship available to Indigenous students.

Details and application: [bitly.com/EKOscholarship2021](https://bitly.com/EKOscholarship2021)



## KEY DATES

Applications open on February 16

Deadline to apply is May 31

EKO Scholars announced on September 9

Empowered Kids Ontario  
150 Kilgour Road  
Toronto, ON M4G 1R8  
416-424-3864, [empoweredkidsontario.ca](https://empoweredkidsontario.ca)

**eko**  
EMPOWERED KIDS  
ONTARIO

**eao**  
ENFANTS AVENIR  
ONTARIO

## **March 2021 - S.E.A.C. Report**

### **Community Living Trent Highlands Updates:**

Employment Project for Youth with Disabilities - new flyer attached.

New Canadians Youth Outreach Worker update - flyer attached.

New Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement Program- QUEST (Quality and Unified Excellence in Supports and Thinking Program.) March 26 begin and evidence, proof, and discovery phase of the new Quest Program involving the entire organization.

Peterborough Art Gallery Virtual Program- <https://agp.on.ca/programs/april-break-2021/>





March 15, 2021

Dear Community Partner,

Peterborough Youth Services (PYS) and the New Canadians Centre (NCC) would like to announce a new joint endeavour that will increase our capacity to provide mental health services to newcomer and refugee youth in Peterborough.

We have created an 18-month position that is funded in part by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough and will see a new staff member at PYS who will work specifically with newcomer youth. Both agencies jointly see the service need and share a common goal to improve low barrier, flexible and mobile culturally appropriate service access to mental health supports for youth.

Beginning on March 22nd, we are happy to announce that Abeer ALSalihi will fill the newly created role of *New Canadians Youth Outreach Worker* at PYS. She will be stepping away from her current role of SWIS (Settlement Worker in Schools) at NCC and shifting her focus to improving mental health outcomes of newcomer and refugee youth. NCC is currently in the process of hiring a new SWIS staff member.

Abeer can be reached at PYS at [aalsalihi@pysonline.ca](mailto:aalsalihi@pysonline.ca) or by calling 705-743-1681.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to continuing our work with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Holland".

Heather Holland

Executive Director, PYS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Cragg".

Andy Cragg

Executive Director, NCC

# Employment Project for Youth with Disabilities

## Information for Community Agencies

### A New Way To Help Youth

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services is committed to giving youth with disabilities access to more career and community participation opportunities. Over the past two years, we have helped young people in three Ontario communities identify, pursue and achieve their career goals through the Youth Project. Now we have expanded the project to three more locations.

Sometimes youth with disabilities need support to:

- ✓ stabilize their lives through supports such as mental health, housing or child care
- ✓ explore and discover their interests, strengths, and abilities
- ✓ identify a suitable job or career and create a plan for getting there
- ✓ find volunteer or recreational activities that can build confidence and skills
- ✓ overcome barriers in their path
- ✓ navigate the range of services in their communities.

Specially trained staff are working closely with youth to realize their potential. The approach is flexible and personalized.

### How The Project Works

We offer the Youth Project in Ontario Disability Support Program and Ontario Works offices in the following locations: Mississauga, Brantford, Peterborough, Sarnia and Lambton County, Sault Ste. Marie, and Scarborough.

Participants are youth between the ages of 14 and 29 who have identified themselves as a person with a disability. No medical diagnosis is required.

Caseworkers will:

- ✓ work one-on-one with youth as they explore goals and make concrete plans
- ✓ engage with participants' family members, mentors and teachers to ensure that youth have a support system for success
- ✓ connect youth to community supports and training programs or employment services.

Caseworkers can connect with you and youth participants in many ways, from email, text message, telephone, video-chat, or in-person in the community. Our approach is flexible and responds to a shifting social and economic climate.

## How We Can Work Together

We can only help youth achieve their potential through collaboration with you. We've already seen success with innovative partnerships in participating communities.

- ✓ Let's work together to ensure seamless transitions to the right supports at the right time.
- ✓ When we refer youth to you, we'll continue to provide coaching support until they're ready for the next step.
- ✓ Help us connect with other agencies that support youth with disabilities, as well as employers that may be interested in this new source of young talent.

## We Need Your Advice and Expertise!

Tell us about your programs and services.

- ✓ How do you support youth with disabilities?
- ✓ What challenges does your agency face when supporting youth with disabilities?
- ✓ Are there ways we can work together to deliver services to our mutual clients?

## How the Ministry Can Help

We will spread the word about your agency and programs to our clients and community partners. If you are an employment services provider, we expect this project to bring young people to you who are closer to employment.

## Contact Us

You may wish to connect with the project caseworker in your area to discuss how best to work together. The project caseworkers in your local ODSP or OW offices are:

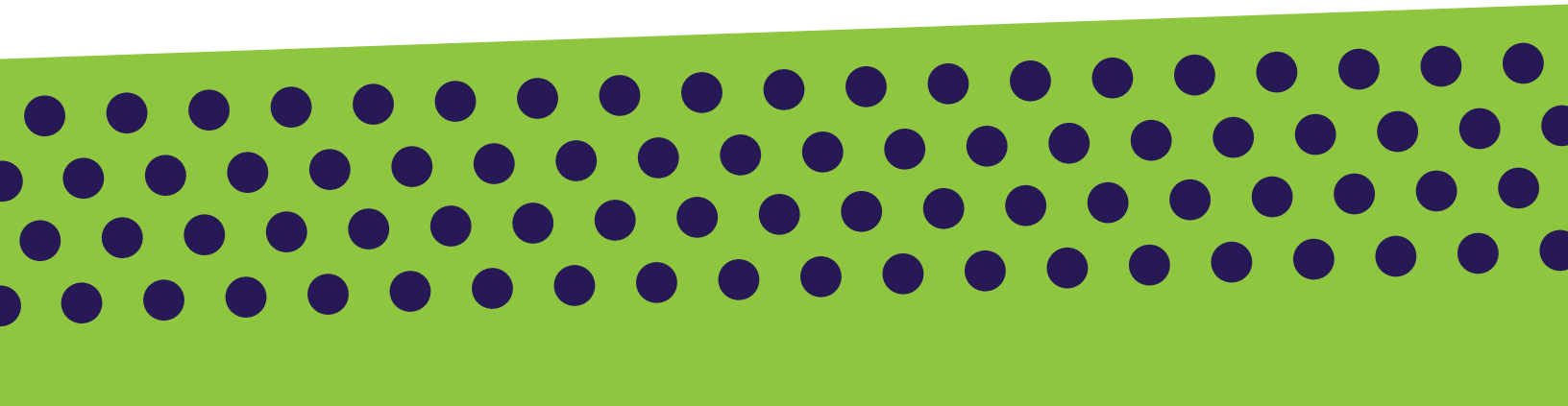
**Name(s):**

**Title(s):**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

Thank you for working with us to support youth with disabilities achieve their potential.



# Peaceful Families - Virtual Group



**Group is for Women and Children who have Witnessed or Experienced Violence in the Home.**

Group will be offered for women and children (ages 8-12). There is no cost for the groups.

Children will meet 1 hr daily over the April school break. Moms will meet on Tuesdays for 2 hrs for the following 3 weeks.

## Topics for children's group:

- ❖ Identifying & expressing feelings
- ❖ Changes in Families
- ❖ Safety
- ❖ Self-Esteem
- ❖ Understanding/defining abuse

## Topics for Mother's group:

- ◆ Impact of violence on children
- ◆ Parenting
- ◆ Personal safety for children
- ◆ Self Esteem and self-care

### Children's Group:

**April 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 9:30-10:30 am**

### Mom's Group:

**Tuesday April 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm and May 4<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm.**

For more information or to register please call  
CCRC at (705) 742-4258 x 217



## Grandview Kids March 2021 Update:

\*\*\*The following job postings are currently posted on the website

- [Family Engagement Program Assistant – Complex Care](#) (Contract, PT)
- [Family Support Services Assistant](#) (Contract, PT)
- [Recreation Therapist](#) (Contract, PT)
- [Registered Dietician – Complex Care](#) (Contract, PT)
- [Social Worker](#) (Contract, PT)
- [Speech-Language Pathologist](#) (Contract, FT)
- [Speech-Language Therapy Assistant](#) (Contract, FT)

\*\*\*One year into Covid, Lorraine Sunstrum-Mann, CEO, reflects on the year and how Grandview has adapted.

<https://grandviewkids.ca/one-year-of-covid-19/>

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# AutismONTARIO

## Peterborough

### Upcoming Virtual Events

#### **COVID-19 Update:**

Please note that Autism Ontario is hosting events via Zoom. We will be running caregiver groups, weekly story-time/ministry of education guided experiments and learning, workshops and fun events (dance parties, magician shows etc). Some of them are up on the website now while others should be expected to be up within the next week. It is important for families to continue to check the website (daily) to see what new events have been placed on the website. We will also be sharing information and events on our [Peterborough Chapter Facebook](#) page so be sure to "like" and "follow" us for daily updates.

**You can find all of Autism Ontario's events [here](#).**

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**\*\*REGISTRATION TO OPEN MAR. 24, 2021 AT 12PM\*\***



Come and welcome spring with Autism Ontario and PeakysProjects by creating your very own sun-catcher!

Sun catcher Kits are the perfect way to build fine motor skills and explore your inner artist! These Kits are easy to complete and fun to create; all you need is a pair of scissors and a glue stick!

There are 3 kits to choose from: Birds, Bugs, or Flowers.

**Notes: \*Maximum 1 kit per household\***

**These Sun-catcher kits are for East Region residents only. If you do not live in this Region, your registration will be cancelled.**

For more information and to register, [click here.](#)

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## **Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) – Information Session**

Learn about Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) and see if your child will be eligible for adult developmental services. By starting the application process early, as early as 16 years of age, you may be able to avoid service delays when they turn 18. DSO will help you determine the supports that are available in your area and that may meet your child's needs when they turn 18.

This session will consist of:

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- Key Elements and Functions of DSO
- Review Eligibility Criteria
- Application Process
- How to Connect with DSO CER

This workshop is geared towards families in the Central East Region (York Region, Durham Region, Simcoe County, and Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough). We will be offering a variety of times/dates for families to participate, please register for the date you wish to attend:

- [Thursday Mar. 25 from 10:00-11:00am](#)
- [Wed. Mar. 31 from 7:00-8:00pm](#)
- [Tues. April 20 from 1:00-2:00pm \(registration opens Apr. 1\)](#)
- [Mon. Apr 26 from 7:00-8:00pm \(registration opens Apr. 1\)](#)



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