



Public Statement

Bill 33 Requires Review: The role of elected school trustees must be preserved, school resource officer plan needs local input

October 27, 2025

The Ontario Principals' Council, representing 5,400 principals and vice-principals in the province's public elementary and secondary schools, strongly opposes any move to eliminate or significantly reduce the roles and responsibilities of democratically elected school trustees. They are locally elected to be the link between the community and the school board. They represent the interests of parents, students and taxpayers. This governance model is fundamental to local democracy and public accountability, principles that must be preserved.

Bill 33, the [Supporting Children and Students Act](#), would grant Ontario's Minister of Education direct control over school boards, a power currently exercised by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The Minister has also announced plans to eliminate elected school trustees altogether. Last week, he introduced Bill 57, the [Respect for Taxpayers Act](#) (*Haldimand County Trustee Vacancy*), which would remove a specific trustee from office and bar them from any school board position until November 2030. This legislation unfairly targets a single individual and constitutes power that extends beyond what legislation should entail.

While there is always room to improve transparency and accountability of trustees, those goals should not come at the expense of local representation. We urge the government to maintain Ontario's model of locally elected school trustees who serve as the voice of their communities.

Bill 33 also mandates that school boards collaborate with local police services, including providing access to school premises and implementing school resource officer programs. We believe the presence of police officers in schools should be a local matter for boards/schools to determine, so that student needs can be respected. No student should be forced to attend school in an environment in which they feel unsafe, unwelcome, surveilled, apprehensive or anxious due to the presence of police officers in the building.

As Bill 33 proceeds through the legislative process, the Ontario Principals' Council will continue to advocate for the protection of local democratic governance and the well-being of all students in Ontario's public schools.