



Statement – Bill 197

July 22, 2020

Educators spend years understanding how to improve student achievement and well-being. Educators invest years implementing curriculum, learning over time what truly works and spending thousands of hours working with children. Leading a school board requires a diverse skill set, including the understanding and the experience one acquires over many years, to successfully recognize environments in which students effectively thrive. Successful boards require leaders with “on the ground” education experience who have accepted the responsibility of leading throughout various stages of their career. These individuals have built an understanding of how to improve each level of an organization as they have acquired the skills and experiences to support others through their own active experience, working with students and families, as a teacher, principal and superintendent.

Many talented individuals with diverse accomplishments are necessary to support Ontario’s school systems – professional educators need to lead them. We do not support the government’s decision to remove the express requirement that a director of education be an educator.

The provincial government’s expedited passage of Bill 197 has resulted in a missed opportunity to engage with education stakeholders in order to learn why Ontario’s education system is so successful.