

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)
Date: December 2, 2022
Regarding: **Revisions to Grade 6 Social Studies Curriculum to Strengthen Holocaust Education**

Ministry memo to school boards outlining changes to the Grade 6 curriculum for September 2023:

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Yael Ginsler
Assistant Deputy Minister
Student Achievement Division

Denys Giguère
Assistant Deputy Minister
French Language Teaching, Learning and Achievement Division

Subject: **Revisions to Grade 6 Social Studies Curriculum to Strengthen Holocaust Education**

We are writing to share that on November 9, the Minister announced a commitment to introduce new mandatory learning on the Holocaust in the elementary school curriculum to combat rising cases of antisemitism in Ontario schools.

Currently, mandatory learning about the Holocaust is included in the Grade 10 Canadian History Since World War I courses. The ministry will be revising the **Grade 6 Social Studies** curriculum for implementation in September 2023 to help students gain a deeper understanding at an earlier age of the impact of acts of hate and human rights violations, including the Holocaust. In addition, the ministry has committed to working with the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) to develop an Additional Qualification to support educators in efforts to educate students on the Holocaust.

This curriculum revision will be in addition to the new mandatory Indigenous-focused learning to be added to the Social Studies, Grades 1-3 curriculum for implementation in September 2023.

The Ministry of Education has partnered with community organizations to help students, parents and educators learn about the Holocaust and how to identify and address antisemitism. Available resources to support learning include:

- The [Antisemitism Classroom Toolkit](#) (bilingual resources available), designed by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, to provide parents and educators with sample lesson plans and classroom resources to support discussions on antisemitism
- [Unlearn Antisemitism](#) (bilingual resources available), a resource hub developed by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) in partnership with Facing History and Ourselves Canada and the Toronto Holocaust Museum, for educators and parents to learn about, identify, and take action to address antisemitism
- The [Educator Toolkit](#) designed by Liberation75, which includes sample lesson plans, resources and educational videos to support teachers educating students on the holocaust
- [Holocaust education guides and resources to combat antisemitism](#), designed by the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Federation to support parents, students and educators

Yael Ginsler and Denys Giguère

- c. Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)
Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)
Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
Executive Director, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
Executive Director, Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)

For more information regarding this *Communiqué* please contact the Local office by phone at 519-474-3150, or by email at etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com

c/ Released Executive, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local
Terry Card, President, ETFO Thames Valley Occasional Teacher Local
Elizabeth Kettle, Executive Assistant, ETFO Provincial

“The collective agreement is the rule book, not a guidebook.”