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A message from Don Drone, Executive Director, OESC

The OESC has worked in partnership with stakeholders from all four publicly funded systems of education to take the lead in a variety of equity projects designed to assist boards to implement equitable and inclusive policies and practices in all their schools and offices. Our latest project, **Fostering Safe, Inclusive and Accepting Schools**, provides comprehensive professional learning modules for school boards aligned for use in each of the four systems and available in both official languages.

The modules are intended to support effective implementation of amendments to the *Education Act* made through the *Accepting Schools Act* (Bill 13, 2012) and related provincial initiatives including Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education and Safe Schools Strategies. They are also intended to support the goals outlined in *Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario* (2014).

The modules have been created as an integral tool in providing professional learning to school and system leaders, and all school board employee groups, as they continue to support the success of all students regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or any other factor. While the modules are focused on providing safe, inclusive and accepting schools for all students, they include a particular focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) students. In short, these resources will support all students to fully participate in the educational enterprise free of discrimination.

Working together in partnership, the ultimate outcome of this work will be to fully support the engagement, success and well-being of all students through their educational journey.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Drone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Don Drone
Executive Director