

Written Notice of Motion (Trustees Laskin and Moise)

From: Denise Joseph-Dowers, Manager, Board Services, Governance and Board Services

In accordance with Board Bylaw 5.15.2, the following motion is submitted as notice at this time and for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

5.15.2 A notice of motion will be introduced by a member who is present as an advance notification of a matter to be considered at a subsequent Board or Committee meeting. A notice of motion will not be debated at the meeting at which it is introduced...

5.15.2 (b) A notice of motion submitted prior to, or at a Board meeting, will be considered at a subsequent Board meeting or will be referred to the appropriate committee...

Incorporating Genocide Education as Compulsory Learning

Whereas, procedure PR728, *Reporting and Responding to Racism and Hate Incidents Involving or Impacting Students in Schools* was developed in response to a Board decision on June 19, 2019, which directed staff to set clear expectations about the processes to be followed and the Board's responsibilities in situations where there are acts of racism and hate; and

Whereas, in the *Multi-Year Strategic Plan*, providing mandatory training for principals/vice-principals in anti-oppression and anti-Black racism connected to school improvement has been completed and building capacity among groups of educators who possess the facilitation skills and understanding to effectively co-lead learning in human rights, equity and anti-oppression is ongoing as is combatting various forms of discrimination (e.g., anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, Antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Asian racism, homophobia, transphobia, and the discrimination faced by those with physical and intellectual disabilities) through human rights training and more effective procedures is ongoing for staff; and

Whereas, the Toronto District School Board is committed to continuing the important work of *Holocaust and Genocide Education* in honour of Liberation75¹ and created a website "Encouraging Students to Investigate and Understand the Past to Think Critically about the Present and Future"; and

Whereas, in recent years, according to B'Nai Brith² there has been an unprecedented increase in antisemitic harassment, vandalism, and violence; and

¹ Liberation75 marks the 75th anniversary of liberation from the Holocaust. Liberation75 was originally planned for May 31-June 2, 2020 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Due to COVID-19, new dates and venue(s) for 2021 will be announced soon <https://www.liberation75.org/>

² Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents © 2020 B'nai Brith of Canada League for Human Rights https://d3n8a8pro7vhtm.cloudfront.net/bnaibrithcanada/pages/394/attachments/original/1588351819/B'nai_Brith_Canada_Audit_2019_ENG.pdf?1588351819

Whereas, a recent study by the Azrieli Foundation¹ found that 22% of Canadians under the age of 34 either have not heard of the Holocaust or were unsure of whether they had; and

Whereas, hatred in all forms is on the rise and as a public education system we have the responsibility to educate against hate; and

Whereas, Genocide education is critical in fighting against intolerance, racism and hate;

Therefore, be it resolved:

That the Chair write to the Minister of Education with the following recommendations:

- a. That the *Genocide: Historical and Contemporary Implications* (CHG381)², Grade 11, Locally Developed Course, be accredited as part of the Ontario Curriculum as a “university” or “mixed” course;
- b. That, as Genocide education is critical in fighting intolerance, racism and hate, the provincial government look for ways to ensure that Canada’s role in genocide examples are a comprehensive study as part of the mandatory *Canadian History since World War I*, Grade 10 Academic and Applied course;
- c. That the province convene a working group of experts to look critically at the Ontario curriculum to:
 - i. develop a policy framework which will enable students to graduate with a better understanding of human rights, peace, war, critical thinking, historical thinking, racism, etc;
 - ii. ensure students know their human rights and responsibilities, how to protect those rights, the consequences of indifference and how to take effective action when they or other members of the community experience, hate, racism, and other forms of discrimination and violence, now and in the future;
 - iii. include Genocide education³ as mandatory curriculum in order to accomplish (i) and (ii) above.

¹ [Canadian Holocaust Knowledge and Awareness Study](https://azrielifoundation.org/canadian-holocaust-knowledge-and-awareness-study/) - The Azrieli Foundation in partnership with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) commissioned Schoen Consulting to conduct a comprehensive national study of Holocaust knowledge and awareness in Canada

² Course Description
https://www.tdsb.on.ca/DesktopModules/Tdsb.Webteam.Modules.SPC/CourseDescriptionPopup.aspx?courseID=1124_20132014_CHG381

³ Genocides currently recognized by the Canadian government include the Holocaust, the Ukrainian Holodomor, the Genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda, the Armenian Genocide of 1915, the Bosnian Genocide and the ongoing genocide of the Yezidi people of Syria and Iraq.