



## **Flag Protocol**

**Date: 2022/05/17**

### **Policy Statement**

#### **The National Flag**

It is the policy of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board to display the National Flag of Canada at all schools and the Catholic Education Centre on an external flagpole. The flagpole displaying the National Flag will be higher than the secondary flagpole.

#### **Secondary Flags**

It is the policy of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board to display the Provincial Flag of Ontario at all schools and at the Catholic Education Centre on a secondary flagpole. The flag of the Province of Ontario shall be flown except on rare occasions when it is to be temporarily replaced by other secondary flags, with the approval of the Request for Recognition Committee. The dimensions of secondary flags shall be equal to or lesser than those of the National and Provincial flags.

#### **Recognizing Diversity**

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board recognizes that all people are created equal in the image of God, each with inimitable characteristics deserving of dignity. In accordance with the Church's teachings, it is the policy of the Board to provide an educational environment that supports and enables diversity within its Catholic community.

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board is committed to improving the experiences and outcomes for all students. As a Catholic community, equity, diversity, justice and inclusion are values rooted in our faith.

In addition, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board believes that a culture of collaboration, trust and respect can strengthen our partnerships with students, staff, family and community. We are committed to celebrating the diversity, dignity, success and worth of all individuals, as we seek to strengthen our recognition of all voices in our community.

The Board's commitment to the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion is rooted in the belief that we are stronger when we recognize our many differences, values and voices. This may include a public demonstration of support through the raising of secondary flags. Such occasions will be approved by the Request for Recognition Committee and limited to particular communities to coincide with recognition that is accepted and acknowledged by the provincial and federal governments. On such occasions, a flag recognizing a particular community will be flown on the secondary flagpole, temporarily replacing the Provincial Flag of Ontario, for a period to be determined by the process set out in *Sec. C Procedures – Flag Protocol*.

## Policy Goals

The purpose of this policy is to set out procedures for the raising and lowering of all flags at schools and at the Catholic Education Centre, including the National Flag, the Provincial Flag of Ontario and approved flags, which recognize diversity within our communities.

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board is committed to ongoing learning and development in the areas of recognition and inclusion with identifiable groups in our school communities, by providing a process, which will allow identifiable groups to be recognized.

Unfolding world events or ethnic celebrations, globally or locally, may also prompt a request for recognition through a flag raising in a particular school community. This policy also provides a process for such requests.

In all cases, opportunities for recognition will empower inclusiveness, foster awareness and educate Board and school communities.

## References

Ontario Education Act

Policy/Program Memorandum No. 119 *Developing and Implementing Equity and Inclusive Education Policies in Ontario Schools, 2013*

Ontario Human Rights Code

Government of Canada – National Flag of Canada Etiquette

Institute for Catholic Education