

Teachers must aid

Are one or two adults certified in first aid and CPR training at your child's school enough to provide life saving measures in case of an emergency?

School boards seem to think so.

It's both surprising and concerning that teachers are not required to be trained in first aid. There's no legislation mandated by the Ministry of Education that requires Ontario certified teachers to hold first aid and CPR training.

It's not to say that many of the thousands of teachers teaching our children across the province do not take it upon themselves to seek life saving certification, but it is not a requirement by the province or the board.

It should be.

Local school boards follow Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) regulations similar to any other business or establishment across the province which requires employers to have first aid equipment, facilities and trained workers in all workplaces for the protection of all employees. The key word being employees. Boards follow WSIB regulation for first aid training to have adequate protection for employees. Where is the protection for students?

It's a WSIB regulation, not a board policy. We need to meet the regulation by WSIB which is one person per site, said Peel school board spokesperson Carla Pereira. We would, in most schools, have two or more trained staff.

One or two trained people on site is not adequate coverage to protect an entire student body should a serious incident take place.

All teachers should be required to be trained to administer first aid and CPR. It should be a requirement to teach in Ontario. Not to mention a valuable skill to have when working with children day in and day out.

Daycare workers are required to be trained if they want a job in the field. This should be applied to the teaching profession as well.

Along with being cost prohibitive, Pereira also stated it is not good practice to require a staff member to be trained in first aid that may have anxiety around the idea of delivering it. If a teacher has anxiety about acting in an emergency involving a child in their care, they should consider a new profession. Being effectively trained to act in an emergency is a part of first aid training. It's a benefit to any workplace and every classroom.

It shouldn't have to take a tragedy for changes to be made. The Ministry of Education and school boards need to step up and be proactive for the protection of our children.

The Independent & Free Press

The Independent & Free Press is published Thursday and is one of several Metroland Media Group Ltd. community newspapers. Editorial and advertising content of The Independent & Free Press is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited. The Independent & Free Press is a member of the Ontario Press Council, which is an independent ethical organization established to deal with editorial concerns. For additional information or to file a complaint, contact info@ontpress.com or call 416-340-1981.

OPC Ontario Press Council
Defending principles to inspire public trust

- And for the most divisive, dishonest, bombastic, petulant, thin-skinned performance by a world leader, the 'Trumpster' goes to...



GEORGETOWN - ACTON
The Independent
A FREE PRESS

905-873-0301

Publisher: Neil Oliver

General manager: Steve Foreman

(sforeman@theifp.ca, 905-234-1011)

Retail advertising manager: Cindi Campbell

(ccampbell@theifp.ca, 905-234-1012)

Managing editor: Chris Vernon

(cvernon@metroland.com, 905-234-1020)

Distribution: Louliana Polar

(lpolar@miltoncanadianchampion, 1-866-838-8960)

Classifieds/Real Estate

Kristie Pells

(realestate@theifp.ca, 905-234-1016)

Advertising Sales

Jenny Hawkins

(jhawkins@theifp.ca, 905-234-1014)

Jennifer Spencer

(jspencer@theifp.ca, 905-234-1013)

Rachael Scutt

(rscutt@theifp.ca, 905-234-1015)

Kelli Kosonic

(kkosonic@theifp.ca, 905-234-1018)

Classified Call Centre

1-800-263-6480, Fax 1-866-299-1499

classifieds@metroland.com

Accounting: 1-866-773-6575

Editorial

Eamonn Maher: Staff writer/photographer

(emaher@theifp.ca, 905-234-1023)

Kathryn Boyle: Staff writer/photographer

(kboyle@theifp.ca, 905-234-1022)

Graeme Frisque: Staff writer/photographer

(gfrisque@metroland.com, 905-234-1022)

Production

Shelli Harrison (sharrison@theifp.ca 905-234-1017)

Sign up for our weekly electronic newsletter.

Go to www.theifp.ca and click on Newsletter

sign-up at the bottom of the homepage.

Letters to the editor

Christianity the fabric of Canada

This is written in response to the letter Diversity makes us stronger, Feb. 16, The Banner.

This writer was responding to a previous writer's article What about Christian values?

Regardless of what your view is of religion in general or of Christians, it is fairly clear that the values of Christianity have played a significant part in the development of this great country Canada. It is woven into our laws and the teachings of Christ are reflected in how we treat one another.

With this said, in my generation, I have seen religious education and prayer removed from our schools. I have also seen today's society pulling away from these Christian values.

The writer of Diversity makes us stronger who is a Muslim, sees no reason why their demands which are being made to the Peel Board of Education to allow them to have prayer time during school should not be accommodated.

The writer points out that things pertaining to Christmas and their Muslim beliefs are in the schools now, so this

Muslim prayer time should be allowed. What the writer does not say about Christmas is that what is being portrayed now is a far cry from years gone by and is now taught alongside all religions in a watered-down informational manner.

The previous writer of What about Christian values? asks because we seem to be bending over backwards to accommodate the Muslim faith; what about our values?

Some reading this might say where are Christians being devalued and where are Christians experiencing backlash for their beliefs?

While one may think it is only in foreign countries that this persecution is taking place, persecution is alive both here in Canada and in the neighbouring United States.

As Christians we not only believe in Christ but we also believe in his word and it gives guidance for our daily lives and it is here that our values are being challenged.

In Canada a photographer in Montreal is threatened with a lawsuit for acting on their beliefs and not wanting to shoot pictures at a gay wedding. A Christian university with a Code of Christian conduct in their bylaws is being denied

recognition by the law society.

In the United States a soldier was dishonourably discharged for having Bible verses on her desk. A baker was sued and lost their business because they would not bake a cake for a gay wedding. Christian brothers were dropped from their television series because they were Christians and the list goes on.

In closing I also found it very interesting that the Muslim writer mentioned specifically Muhammad but never mentioned Jesus Christ and they relegated him to a prophet of God.

Whether the writer was intentional in this or not, it made me think of Mathew 16 vs 13 to 16. In this passage of God's word Jesus Christ asks his disciple Peter

Who do people say that the Son of Man is? Peter says that people have varying names for him but then Christ directly asks Peter who do you say that I am?

Peter responds by saying You are the Christ the Son of the living God.

The Muslim writer says that diversity (their prayer in the schools) will make us stronger but I would argue that, with all respect for their beliefs, it will not unite us and that if it is allowed it is another step away from our Christian values.

David Boyce