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MUNICIPAL ELECTION

CATHOLIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION ENDORSEMENT PROCESS FLAWED: HALTON HILLS TRUSTEE CANDIDATE

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Halton Hills Catholic trustee candidate Daniel Dragicevic read the letter circulated to school board staff from the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association, bewildered.

The piece of literature, dated Sept. 21, endorses nine candidates for Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) trustee positions, three in Burlington, three in Oakville, two in Milton and one in Halton Hills.

Dragicevic was not selected.

He also said he had not had the opportunity to meet with any of the association members who

made the decision to endorse his competing candidate, Janet O'Hearn-Czarnota.

The Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) guide to member engagement and activism provides the following rule for units preparing for municipal elections: "Develop questions and distribute them to all candidates. Let them know that their answers will be distributed to your members. Be vigilant about getting the responses and present them to your members. Encourage your members to review the responses to help them make informed decisions when they vote."

The guide further states

that unit members are responsible for arranging meetings with trustee candidates during municipal elections, as well as reviewing previous election results, to help with making endorsements.

"Their decision on our locally endorsed candidate was made before I even signed up to run," Dragicevic said, adding that he worries that the letter may lead voters to form false opinions of his ideologies.

OECTA president Keith Boyd said this year, eight union leaders of all HCDSB employee groups were involved in jump-starting the endorsement process in April, with the intention of getting a head start in backing the election of new candidates for consideration at the board table.

"We had a problem at our board with trustees, so we started looking for new ones," Boyd said.

He added that the association began the process by sending out invitations

See O'HERN, page 16

legal matters

Child Support
 Children in University

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Q

Can I end child support payments when my child goes off to University?

A

It is clear law when your child returns to live with the custodial parent for the 4 months of summer child support resumes. What is not clear is what happens to child support for the other 8 months. The custodial parent's child expenses normally do not just end for 8 months although the full guideline amount is normally viewed as inappropriate. The appropriate child support depends on the circumstances. What often happens is the Guideline Table expenses go down but the s.7 university expenses go up. Table child support goes down for 8 months when the custodial parent is not paying for food, and housing and the s.7 expenses go up when the child pays for university residence, food plans, tuition and books.

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