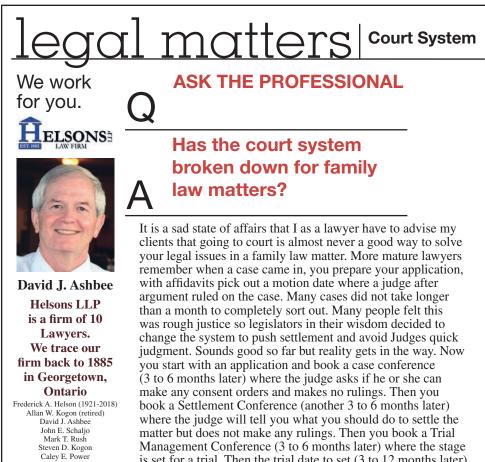
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is set for a trial. Then the trial date to set (3 to 12 months later) where you actually have a judge rule on all the issues of your file. We have moved from quick justice to justice years down the road with legal costs going through the roof.

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The Halton Catholic District School Board is conducting a study that will look at bringing universal washrooms to all of its schools.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD TAKES FIRST STEPS TO INSTALLING UNIVERSAL WASHROOMS

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It's the first step to what could be a significant change for local schools.

The Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) recently passed a motion that directs staff to conduct a feasibility study on creating universal washrooms for every school at the board.

Burlington trustee Brenda Agnew said adding these facilities would benefit many people in the school community.

"Universal washrooms can provide privacy and dignity for people of all abilities, including people with disabilities who may need the assistance of an attendant," she said. "Universal washrooms can also benefit families with small children, individuals with medical needs, and really anyone who is not comfortable using a gender-defined washroom."

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) mandates the installation of universal washrooms in public buildings. The goal is to make Ontario more user-friendly and inclusive for people with disabilities.

A universal washroom is defined within the Ontario building code and includes several requirements including being large enough for a wheelchair to turn, have a power-operated door and include an "The dignity of all students should always be at the forefront,"

- Nancy Guzzo

emergency call button.

"The dignity of all students should always be at the forefront and the ability to go to the washroom when you need to in a place that's comfortable for everybody, should be at the forefront. So, I think that this is a good start in ensuring that we have it,' said Oakville trustee Nancy Guzzo.

Out of the 55 schools at the HCDSB, currently only 11 have universal washrooms.

The board's superintendent of Facility Management Services said it's unclear what the cost of installing all the universal washrooms would be without first conducting a more comprehensive study. He did indicate that it presents a significant design challenge.

Tim O'Brien, Patrick Murphy, Peter De-Rosa, Nancy Guzzo, Janet O'Hearn-Czarnota and Brenda Agnew voted in favour of the motion. Helena Karabela voted against it.

The report on feasibility is set to return to the board table on January 17, 2023.