

Joint Organization Communique #1

Monday, November 9, 2015

"Behold I make all things new ..."

Greetings colleagues,

It was 4 years ago that Edifide Christian Educators Association (Edifide), Ontario Christian School Administrators Association (OCSAA), and Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS) met for a joint meeting at Woodland Christian High School in Breslau to discuss the organizational wisdom of the newly formed Prairie Centre for Christian Education that features educators, principals and boards all working under one umbrella organization. Since that time, there have been informal conversations among the three executive directors as well as board members and concerned individuals about the possibility of collaborative leadership in a similar way in Ontario. Perhaps you have voiced this desire yourself.

Traditionally, Ontario has had support organizations for each of the stakeholders in Christian schools: Edifide for the educators, OCSAA for principals, and OACS for school boards. In the last number of years, relationships among these three organizations have grown very collaborative. With two of the organizations anticipating the hiring of new leaders in the foreseeable future, we began to wonder if the time was ripe for another conversation among the three boards. On Saturday, October 31, the board members and executive directors met to have that conversation.

Our discussion was intense and positive. We talked about the strengths of the organizations, the need for Christian school flourishing in the future, as well as the possible "wins" if we combined. As the day progressed, we agreed to pursue a vision where school boards, administrators and educators are collaborating in one organization to build flourishing Christian independent education in eastern Canada.

This announcement today is to let you know that your support organization is in discussions to explore this common vision. The progress of these talks will be discussed, and final decisions will be vetted, and eventually voted on. Members of each organization will have opportunity to give feedback and critique. We ask for your prayers as the time seems ripe for change and for a "new thing".

Our rationale for this endeavor is clear. As we adapt to the 21st century, we must be prepared to put aside the lines that divide the school boards, administrators, and educators, and join together into one organization that will be stronger and more effective in building flourishing and sustainable Christian independent education in Ontario.

Our plan is bold. In the coming months, the three existing organizations will work and pray together as partners to imagine a new organization that will meet the needs of the members of all three. As we craft a new organization, we will want to build in the structures to preserve a fair and equitable voice for each partner.

If you have any questions, please contact the Executive Director of your current organization:

Edifide: diane.stronks@edifide.net

OCSAA: ocsaa.ca@gmail.com

OACS: julesdj@oacs.org



edifide Christian Educators
Association
777 Garner Road
Ancaster ON L9k 1J4
office@edifide.net



O A C S

Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools
790 Shaver Road
Ancaster ON L9G 3K9
oacs@oacs.org



Ontario Christian School
Administrators Association
16 - 39 Raymond Road
Ancaster ON L9K 0B3
ocsaa.ca@gmail.com