

**IN THE MATTER OF the *Public Inquiries Act*, R.S.O. c. P-41;**

**AND IN THE MATTER OF the Order in Council 558/2005, establishing the Commission with the Honourable G. Normand Glaude as Commissioner, ("The Cornwall Public Inquiry");**

**AND IN THE MATTER OF an Application for Standing by the Upper Canada District School Board;**

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**Written Submissions for  
Phase 2 of the Cornwall Public Inquiry  
Upper Canada District School Board**

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Filed Thursday, February 19, 2009  
Cornwall Public Inquiry  
709 Cotton Mill Street  
Cornwall, Ontario  
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**PHASE 2 SUBMISSIONS OF THE**  
**UPPER CANADA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

Phase II of the Cornwall Public Inquiry focuses on restorative initiatives including reconciliation and healing in the Cornwall community through public consultation, community research, and education and training opportunities.

The Cornwall Public Inquiry was not able to facilitate an expert report in the elementary and secondary education sector.

In furtherance of the objectives of Phase II of the Cornwall Public Inquiry the Upper Canada District School Board ("Board") makes the following submissions:

1. The Upper Canada District School Board is supportive of efforts to increase awareness amongst teachers and administrator through education about the effects of child sexual abuse specifically, and its impact on victims.
  - (a) The Upper Canada District School Board respectfully submits that it provides awareness amongst teachers and administrators through its current in-service education and training with respect to the professional obligations to report a child in need of protection, as prescribed by the *Child & Family Services Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. C. 11, as well as its regular review of Board policies and protocols with respect to reporting.
2. It is respectfully submitted that the education and training of teachers and administrators regarding the early identification of child sexual abuse and the recognition of the traits of a child sexual abuse victim would require specifically trained individuals to provide education to and to support teachers and administration with making such identifications. The enhanced level of training would also assist in developing a deeper level of understanding of child sexual abuse issues and promote a supporting environment for the disclosure of child sexual abuse.
  - (a) It is respectfully submitted that education and training of teachers and administrators regarding the early identification of child sexual abuse and the recognition of the traits of a child sexual abuse victim should be provided by experts in the area of child sexual abuse including professionals from children's aid societies, child psychologists and social workers.
  - (b) It is respectfully submitted that, at the present time, the Upper Canada District School Board does not have the capacity to provide such training and support.
3. It is respectfully submitted that with increased education and increased awareness of child sexual abuse issues, appropriate resources must be in place to effectively support the needs of child sexual abuse victims if, and when, they disclose abuse and seek assistance.
  - (a) It is respectfully submitted that it is necessary to have appropriate financial resources specifically dedicated in order to meet the needs of victims. It is respectfully submitted that the Upper Canada District School Board does not have such financial resources.
  - (b) It is respectfully submitted that it is necessary to have the human resources specifically dedicated in order to meet the needs of victims. It is respectfully submitted that the Upper Canada District School Board does not have such human resources.

4. It is respectfully submitted that the financial and human resources that can be provided solely by school boards for victims of child sexual abuse is limited. Access to services including child psychologists, child psychiatrists, child and youth workers, social workers and other trained counselling professionals is necessary to support victims and their families.
  - (a) It is respectfully submitted that the provision of such financial and human resources must be involve various provincial and local institutions as well as public, private and voluntary community organizations.
5. The Upper Canada District School Board is supportive of efforts to increase awareness amongst students through education about child sexual abuse.

All of which is respectfully submitted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2009.

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