



February 1, 2017

Re: Message from Director Jim Costello

The Lambton Kent District School Board believes a safe and caring learning environment is strengthened by embracing diversity, and respecting self, others and the world around us. As one of our belief statements, this is at the core of our values as an organization and informs the decisions and practices of our Trustees, administration and staff, as well as foundational to the learning environment in our schools, and directs our engagement with students, parents and the community.

In light of the tragic event in Quebec City and the current political climate in the United States, as educators, we have a responsibility to help our students feel safe and work towards ensuring their safety within our walls each day. However, we recognize our students are not isolated from the outside world. Our thoughts go out to students, parents, staff and community members who are impacted by these events.

Should you have any concerns about personal or a student's wellbeing, we encourage you to contact your school to learn more about supports available to students or visit the LKDSB website to learn more about [mental health resources](#). Staff members are encouraged to access the [Employee and Family Assistance Program](#). The Canadian Red Cross - [Coping with Crisis](#) document is also a helpful resource.

We encourage all staff, parents and students to review the LKDSB Equity and Inclusive Education [Policy](#) and [Regulation](#).

On behalf of LKDSB senior administration and the Equity Committee, I want to thank you for supporting a safe and caring learning environment for all of our students and staff members.

Sincerely,

Jim Costello
Director of Education
Lambton Kent District School Board