



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

# 2026 CATHOLIC TRUSTEES SEMINAR

Delta by Marriott Toronto Airport Hotel  
655 Dixon Rd., Toronto, ON M9W 1J3



Program – January 16 to 17

For more information on speakers and workshops please visit the following link [2026 CTS](#)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15	
5:30pm – 6:30pm International Foyer	Registration
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16	
7:30am International A	Breakfast/Registration
8:30am International BC	<b>Opening Prayer</b> <i>Fr. Jim Mockler, Chaplain, OCSTA</i>  <b>Welcoming Remarks and Presentation of OCSTA Short Video Awards – Catholic Elementary Schools</b> <i>Jennifer Wigston, Seminar Chair</i>
9:00am International BC	<b>Keynote Address – “Inspired by Faith, United in Mission: Ontario’s Catholic School Trustees”</b> <i>Most Reverend Gerard Bergie D.D., Bishop of St. Catharines and President of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario</i>
10:00am International BC	<b>Presentation of OCSTA Short Video Awards – Catholic Secondary Schools</b> <i>Jennifer Wigston, Seminar Chair</i>  <b>President’s Report and Q&amp;A</b> <i>Michael Bellmore, President, OCSTA</i>
10:45am International Foyer	Break
11:00am International BC	<i>Jamie Cook, MCIP, RPP, PLE</i> <i>Managing Partner, Planning &amp; Land Economics Watson &amp; Associates Economists Ltd.</i>
12:00pm International A	Lunch
1:00pm- 2:00pm	Concurrent Workshops
Halton	<b>1. Transparency, Accountability and Good Stewardship of Financial Resources – Discussion Panel</b> <i>Tracy McLennan, Associate Director, Corporate Services &amp; Treasurer, Wellington CDSB</i> <i>Paola Pace-Gubekjian, Associate Director of Corporate Services, Hamilton-Wentworth CDSB</i> <i>Erica Vervoort, CPA, CA, MAcc</i> <i>Director, Audit &amp; Assurance, Deloitte</i>
New York	<b>2. Effective Advocacy for Catholic School Boards</b> <i>Stephen Andrews, Director of Legislative and Political Affairs, OCSTA</i> <i>John Capobianco, VP &amp; Senior Partner, National Practice Lead for Public Affairs, FleishmanHillard</i> <i>Christopher Holz, Principal, Campbell Strategies</i>
Paris	<b>3. Conversation in the Spirit – Strengthening Relationships, Cultivating Deep Listening and Discerning Priorities</b> <i>Linda Staudt, Canadian Synod Delegate and Former Director of Education, LDCSB</i> <i>Emelda Byrne, Director of Education, Windsor-Essex CDSB</i> <i>Lisa Soulliere, Chair, Windsor-Essex CDSB</i> <i>Donna Nielsen, Trustee, CDSB of Eastern Ontario</i>

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 (CONT'D)	
Mississauga A	<b>4. Crisis Management Practices in Catholic Schools</b> <i>Jessica Salmon, Manager of Strategic Communications,</i> <i>Mike Gundert, Coordinator of Religion &amp; Family Life,</i> <i>Michael Faught, Superintendent of Education,</i> <i>Algonquin &amp; Lakeshore CDSB</i>  <i>Karen McKissick, CRSP, Safety Coordinator,</i> <i>Alexandra Frankow, Communications Officer,</i> <i>Thunder Bay CDSB</i>
London	<b>5. Student Trustees Workshop #1</b> <b>Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness</b> <b>CCCB Pastoral Letter to Young People</b> <i>Most Reverend Gerard Bergie D.D., Bishop of St. Catharines and President of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario</i>
2:00 pm International Foyer	Break
2:15pm -3:15pm	<b>Concurrent Workshops #1-4 (Repeat)</b>  <b>Student Trustees Workshop #2</b> <b>Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness</b> <b>The Charisms of Saints - Working Session</b> <i>Anne O'Brien, Director of Catholic Education, OCSTA</i> <i>Ruben Da Silveira, Chair, Catholic Student Trustees</i>
3:30pm International BC	<b>Effective Communications for Catholic Education Leaders</b> <i>Mark Weber, Special Advisor to the Provost on Leadership Strategy and Development at the University of Waterloo</i>
4:30pm	Free Time
6:30pm International Foyer	<b>Reception</b> <i>(Cash Bar)</i>
7:15pm International ABC	Dinner
SATURDAY, JANUARY 17	
7:30am International BC	Breakfast
8:30am International A	<b>Eucharistic Celebration</b> <b>2026 Catholic Education Song – Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness</b> <i>Fr. Jim Mockler, Chaplain, OCSTA</i>  <i>Christopher Rait, Singer Songwriter, Student Achievement Consultant: Arts</i> <i>Jeannine Duwyn, Kindergarten Teacher, St. Cecilia School,</i> <i>Steve Glowala, Music Teacher, Assumption College,</i> <i>Dr. Matthew Rait, Grade 7/8 Teacher, Our Lady of Lourdes, Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB</i>
9:30am International BC	<b>OCSTA Resolution Process</b> <i>Patrick J. Daly, Executive Director, OCSTA</i> <i>Rowan Rockley, Data on the Spot (DOTS)</i> <i>Liam Terry, Data on the Spot (DOTS)</i>
10:00am	<b>Current Trends Impacting Education in Ontario</b> <i>David Coletto, Founder and CEO of Abacus Data, York Catholic DSB alumnus</i>
11:00am International BC	<b>Closing Remarks &amp; Adjournment</b> <i>Jennifer Wigston, Seminar Chair</i>