



ONE CHILD EXPLOITED IS ONE CHILD TOO MANY.

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Dear Honourable Premier Ford, Sylvia Jones, and Ministers Lecce, McKenna, and Dunlop,

We are members of the Youth Advisory Squad (YAS) and other youth members of OneChild, a charity empowering a child and youth-led movement against the sexual exploitation of children through prevention education, advocacy, survivor care, and survivor empowerment. We are a group of 14-to-20-year olds and some of us were inspired to join YAS, after OneChild presented at our schools on child sex trafficking, while others were inspired to support OneChild after reading about the issue in the newspaper. Once we knew about child sex trafficking, we could not stand by while thousands of youth were being trafficked a year and we had to take action in our schools and communities ever since. That is why we were so excited to read the announcement that you are supporting school boards across Ontario in educating students and training teachers.

This is a powerful step for Ontario to go from being the leading province in child trafficking cases to the leader in trafficking prevention.

OneChild was founded in 2005 by a teenager who saw a need for prevention education for youth and started presenting on the topic in high schools. We continue to do this today, having presented to over 37,000, and we are trained to present on this topic too.

We know that many teachers are reluctant to address this issue, because they have not been trained to teach on a sensitive topic such as sex trafficking, and do not know how to handle an influx of disclosures. We hope that this new policy will help educators be better equipped to respond to these issues. The key to ending child sex trafficking in the province is prevention, and the key to prevention is education.

We wanted to sincerely thank each of you, as well as the MPPs and other government staff that made this announcement possible. We appreciate the time and the effort that you put into pushing for these changes - by raising awareness about sex trafficking and helping educators to not only identify the warning signs but also to support victims of trafficking, you are working to protect countless young lives. **We are happy to see our values and our mission reflected in the actions of our government, and we would be happy to collaborate with you and school boards and provide our youth voice and expertise.** This step has demonstrated the government of Ontario's commitment to ending child-trafficking. It is not only a huge step for Ontario, but also for Canada as a whole.

Thank you for protecting us.

Sincerely,
The Youth Advisory Squad & youth members of OneChild



Cc:
The Honourable Doug Downey
The Honourable Sam Oosterhoff
The Honourable Daisy Wai
Alexandra Blair Hoene
Hannah Philips
Caitlin Clark
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