



October 15, 2025

Subject: Opposition to Bill 33 Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025

Hon. Doug Ford

doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Dear Premier Ford,

CFUW Ontario Council is a provincial organization with 48 clubs across Ontario and 4,500 members. CFUW (Canadian Federation of University Women) is a voluntary, self-funded, non-profit, non-partisan women's organization whose members seek to provide life-long learning, to improve public policy and to advocate for gender equality and for the rights of women and girls.

CFUW Ontario Council is strongly opposed to Bill 33 as written. Although Ontario school boards are overseen by the Ontario Government, through the Ministry of Education, each board is community based and the requirements and operation of each board is distinct, in the diversity of the students, and the needs of the community they are responsible for. Bill 33 would give the government of Ontario significantly expanded powers over school board operations, including broader financial oversight and intervention. Years of chronic underfunding need to be addressed at the provincial level. An adequate stable funding model needs to be urgently implemented. Overriding community-based school boards and eliminating elected school trustees with a one size fits all approach will not improve the education of our students.

Mandating the implementation of police services in schools has been shown to have negative effects, particularly on racialized and marginalized students. Such decisions need to be made at the local level with community consultation. Resources would be better allocated to smaller class sizes, mental health support and other educational supports that are needed for student success.

For post-secondary institutions, provincially mandated student fee regulations threaten their ability to offer student support services (such as mental health assistance) unique to the students within each institution. The answer again lies in a stable and adequate post-secondary funding model, not further regulations from the province. Provincial determination of admission criteria raises concerns about the potential for a narrow, exclusionary definition of "merit" and reduced institutional autonomy.

CFUW Ontario Council urges you to withdraw Bill 33 and instead work with parents, teachers and all who support a strong public education system to address the gaps created by years of underfunding of elementary, secondary and post-secondary education in Ontario.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Shaw

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