

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Keep The Promise 2015 Regional Student Summit Ottawa, Canada

Hosted by Ottawa Catholic School Board

“The Spirit of the National Student Summit Lives On in Ottawa”

Keep The Promise is delighted to report that the spirit of the National Student Summit lives on! The Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB) will be hosting a one-day Student Summit for 12 of its schools on April 28, 2015.

Denise Andre, Deputy Director of the Board, is excited to have been able to sponsor this follow-up summit as a way of building on the momentum of November’s national event. "This is an excellent initiative to reinforce student involvement in project-based learning rooted in real life situations, with rich opportunities for cross-curricular learning—Religion, Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics-Data Management. It is also an opportunity to explore Catholic social teaching and social justice themes.”

The Summit will host approximately 50 OCSB students, engaging them in a discussion about anti-poverty issues that are important to them, and allowing them to showcase their ideas for addressing these issues, especially at the local level. Schools will be selected to ensure representation from different demographics and locations across the district. “Schools with active social justice initiatives embedded in curriculum expectations will find this day both enriching and inspirational.”

The Student Summit will continue to focus on “Student Voice.” The day will include “Danny, King of the Basement,” a powerful play that briefly chronicles the experiences of a young boy living in poverty. Playwright David Craig has generously offered to waive the normal fees for this presentation. Students will discuss issues related to food, housing, education, clothing, recreation and unemployment, and the impact of poverty on Danny, and on children in their communities.

Schools that attended the National Student Summit from the Ottawa area will each have the opportunity to highlight their experiences there, as well as the work they have been doing in their schools since that time. At least ten retired teachers will be assisting with the day, making it truly an intergenerational event.

We are very grateful for the commitment and support the Ottawa Catholic School Board has provided throughout the year to Keep The Promise, in both financial and human resources. And, what a fabulous way to build on the momentum generated by the National Student Summit and to demonstrate how schools and School Boards can extend the reach of the campaign!

Joanne Gosselin,
Summit Coordinator