

Farewell Message

Dear Friends,

On October 20, 2008 I will be leaving the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario to take on a leadership role in support of Catholic education. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank all of the past and current members for their ongoing support and involvement in this professional association. I would also like to thank all of our partner organizations and business associates for their collective efforts. CPCO was born from the political protest of 1997 and owes much to the organizations that supported it during the formation years – especially OCSTA, OECTA, OCSOA, STERLON and Johnson Inc.

I will be assuming the role of Project Manager for a joint venture led by the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association, the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association and the Dioceses of Ontario. The mandate of the joint venture is to deepen and strengthen support for Catholic education. All of the Catholic partner organizations, including CPCO, will be invited to participate and contribute. I will be working from the offices of OCSTA and my new email address will be lrocha@ocsta.on.ca effective Oct. 21, 2008.

My decision to leave CPCO was difficult but simple. From my first years as a Catholic teacher and principal I have spoken about the need to stand watch for our system. It was that purpose that brought me to CPCO. It is the same purpose that now takes me to the joint venture. Over the next few years I will be working with provincial and local groups that include principals and vice-principals, teachers, students, parents, senior administration, trustees, clergy and local communities. I know that you will be there when the call comes.

CPCO will continue to be an excellent organization focused on member services and advocacy for Catholic education. The executive council is dedicated and motivated to serve the members. The staff is committed and talented. The membership is vibrant and engaged. CPCO's relationship with government and partner organizations is collaborative and productive. The strategic plan is clearly focused on the future needs of our members and succession planning is well underway.

It has been a privilege to serve you and a pleasure to meet so many of you during the last eight years. God bless and help each of you in your work for Catholic education.

Lou Rocha
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