



## CATHOLIC CURRICULUM CORPORATION

### CENTRAL & WESTERN ONTARIO REGION

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[www.catholiccurriculumcorp.org](http://www.catholiccurriculumcorp.org)

November 1, 2018

Dear Educators and Educational Partners of WE:

I am writing this letter in support of WE and the WE Schools Program.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Marc and Craig for the past 20 years both in my former role as the Director of Education with the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board and now as Executive Director of the Catholic Curriculum Corporation.

Marc and Craig personally approached our school board to request an opportunity for their organization, known as Free The Children at that time, to work with the schools in our District. I was immediately impressed by their organization's (now known as WE) values and dedication to help others.

WE's commitment to supporting students and schools to take action on causes that they believe in aligns well with my own personal values. From the very start, I was impressed with the fundamental principle of the WE Schools Program (a free service learning program) in which students and schools could choose the causes they support and the organizations for which they would fundraise. It is quite admirable that WE operates from a cause agnostic orientation and supports schools in fundraising efforts that may not include WE Charity. I am always proud to point out that many of the Catholic charities themselves have benefitted through the fundraising efforts of schools using the WE Schools resources and platform.

As the Director of the Catholic Curriculum Corporation, our partnership with WE has included Marc and Craig speaking at the When Faith Meets Pedagogy Youth Forum, Marc as a keynote speaker at the WFMP Educator Conference, and leadership training workshops for youth leaders at The Catholic Leadership Camp. Writers at Catholic Curriculum Corporation have also partnered with WE to produce the curriculum document "*Called to Change the World*".

In my capacity with the Catholic Curriculum Corporation I have seen firsthand the quality of the curriculum and resources that are offered through WE Schools. These resources exceed the expectation for quality and delivery of support to teachers in schools across this province. WE is considered a valued and trusted partner in the creation of curriculum and teaching resources. Many Catholic school boards are highly engaged in the WE Schools program and have come to rely and trust WE to support teachers and students in their understanding of local and global issues accordingly. I wholeheartedly endorse the pedagogical value of the curriculum and resources that WE offers.

In my current role of Executive Director of The Catholic Curriculum Corporation, I know full well that the creation of quality resources comes with a heavy cost. It is important to recognize that, in many cases, without corporate participation, these resources would not be able to be provided to schools free of charge. I commend WE's attention and due diligence to the



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appropriate and consistent use of logo placement (teacher facing and not student facing) and the balance used in the recognition and participation of corporate partners in the resources and opportunities created for classrooms and teachers. This is clearly reflected in the policy *WE Schools Standards & Guidelines: Corporate and Foundation Sponsorship Recognition Program*. It is clear that the primary purpose of corporate sponsors' recognition is to express gratitude and to understand that corporate sponsors also have a responsibility for social good. As Fr. Henri Nouwen once said, "Never apologize for inviting corporations to be part of a worthwhile project-it may be their only chance to give."

As a trusted partner of the Catholic Curriculum Corporation we value the work that WE does to support our students to answer a call that asks each of them to recognize their God-given gifts and talent; it is a call to use these gifts to meet the needs of others, to treat all with dignity and respect and to address the injustices in our world with kindness and compassion.

Sincerely,

***Michael Bator***

Executive Director

Catholic Curriculum Corporation