



# Bluewater District School Board

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January 16, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Sent by email: [justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Bluewater District School Board, we are writing to you to share the following motions that were passed at the Regular Meeting of the Board on December 19, 2023:

*Whereas the proliferation of gambling advertising, particularly during sports telecasts, has resulted in an alarming number of children and young adults becoming addicted to gambling;*

*Whereas gambling can lead to significant harm, including runaway debt, stress to families, low self-esteem, anxiety, depression, and even suicide;*

*Whereas Statistics Canada has estimated that 1.6% of adult gamblers, more than 300,000 Canadians, are at moderate to high risk of gambling disorders; and much information on the insidious result of these advertisements can be found at [BanAdsForGambling.ca](http://BanAdsForGambling.ca);*

*Whereas school boards across Ontario and beyond are dedicated to preserving and improving the mental health of students.*

**That Bluewater District School Board assert that it supports a legislative ban on advertisements for gambling in Canada in all media, one of the objectives of the Campaign to Ban Ads for Gambling ([BanAdsForGambling.ca](http://BanAdsForGambling.ca)).**

**That Bluewater District School Board send a letter to local MPs, MPPs, and provincial and federal political leaders to advocate that legislation be enacted to ban advertising for gambling in all media.**

**That Bluewater District School Board forward this resolution to OPSBA for dissemination.**

With the proliferation of gambling advertisements, and their potential negative impact on students, Bluewater District School Board is adding its voice, among other advocates, to urge action to address a pervasive issue in Canada. We recognize that any measures to implement a legislative ban on gambling related advertising falls within the jurisdiction of our provincial and federal political leaders. By calling on our governments to enact appropriate legislation that applies to all media across the

country, we are aligning with our board's strategic plan priority of a safe supportive learning community that works together to support wellness.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your support of our students. As always, our commitment remains focused on providing a quality education for every student in a safe, accepting, and caring environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Thomson".

Jane Thomson  
Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jan Johnstone".

Jan Johnstone  
Vice-Chair

cc: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Alex Ruff, MP, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound  
Ben Lobb, MP, Huron-Bruce  
Rick Byers, MPP, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound  
The Honourable Lisa Thompson, MPP, Huron-Bruce  
Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

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