

News Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Elections Ontario launches updated civics curriculum on International Day of Democracy

- Elections Ontario launches an updated civics and citizenship curriculum on the International Day of Democracy.
- Chief Electoral Officer Greg Essensa was at Loretto Abbey Catholic Secondary School for the occasion to participate in the curriculum launch while engaging with grade 10 civics students.
- The updated curriculum is now available online in French and English.

TORONTO, September 15, 2022 – To celebrate the International Day of Democracy, Chief Electoral Officer Greg Essensa was at Loretto Abbey Catholic Secondary School this morning to launch an updated version of Elections Ontario's civics and citizenship curriculum for grades 5 and 10 students.

In his remarks to a class of grade 10 students, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) recalled the importance of democratic engagement and public education, including the role of future voters in Ontario. Following a lesson led by Diane Vautour, Department Head, Canadian and World Studies, the CEO interacted with students by engaging in a discussion about the fairness of Canada's and Ontario's political processes and structures.

"With the COVID-19 pandemic, we faced a global crisis that disrupted our traditional ways of voting. A key part of creating and maintaining engaged communities about the democratic process is through education, and this starts with young future voters," said Greg Essensa.

The Chief Electoral Officer also exchanged a few words with the principal, Lily Adams, and thanked Diane Vautour, who was instrumental in updating the civics curriculum. The new curriculum is now available at <u>www.elections.on.ca</u>.

Elections Ontario is the non-partisan agency responsible for administering provincial elections, byelections and referenda. For more information, visit <u>elections.on.ca</u> or call 1-888-668-8683 (TTY: 1-888-292-2312).

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