

**Toronto Family Network Backgrounder**  
**For Presentation to TDSB Special Education Advisory Committee**  
**On Monday, November 7, 2016**  
**Main Floor Board Room, Head Office, 5050 Yonge Street**

**Who we are**

- Families helping families
- A grassroots regional family network since 1998
- Affiliated with Family Alliance Ontario
- Not ‘disability’ specific
- Run by volunteers
- No cost to families – no fees

**Our mandate**

- To promote the inclusion and well-being of family members
- To help families feel less isolated and more empowered
- To work in collaboration and positive partnership

**What we do**

- Provide support and information to families
- Attend school meetings (IPRC, IEP, etc.) with parents
- Meet with Ministers of Education, Deputy Ministers, Directors of Education, etc.
- Participate in public consultations
- Speak at conferences and give workshops
- Have contact with the media

**How families know about us**

- Mainly word of mouth
- Neighbours, co-workers
- Referred by associations, agencies, etc.
- Professionals – doctors, educators, occupational therapists, consultants, etc.
- Other parent groups – e.g. People for Education
- The Internet

**Examples of our community outreach**

- Rozanski Commission
- Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
- Ontario Human Rights Commission
- Office of the Ontario Ombudsman
- Provincial Advocate for Children & Youth
- Minister’s Advisory Council on Special Education

- Ministry of Education Safe Schools Action Team
- Expert Panel on TDSB Governance
- York University teacher education program
- Canadian Association for the Practical Study of Law in Education
- Community Living Ontario
- Muki Baum Accessibility Foundation
- TDSB Parent Involvement Advisory Committee
- TCDSB Parent Engagement Fair
- Developmental Services Toronto Info Fair
- Golden Mile Employment & Social Services
- The Safehaven Project for Community Living
- Special Services at Home Provincial Coalition
- Surrey Place Centre
- York Youth Coalition
- Three to Be
- Etc.

**Our presentation will focus on seven ideas we are proposing regarding inclusion in the Toronto District School Board.**

**To be prepared for our presentation, we ask that you consider these two definitions and review a few articles (links provided). A complete list of suggested resources will be provided electronically or at Monday's meeting.**

**Two definitions of "inclusive education"**

*When ALL students attend and are welcomed into their neighbourhood schools in age appropriate regular classes and are supported to learn, contribute to and participate in all aspects of the life of the school. As well, all students are challenged to meet their unique intellectual, social, physical and career development goals. (Canadian Association of Community Living)*

*Inclusion is children with disabilities being educated in the school they would attend if they didn't have disabilities, in age-appropriate regular education classrooms, where services and supports are provided in those classrooms for both the students and their teachers, and where students with disabilities are fully participating members of their school communities in academic and extracurricular activities. (Disability is Natural website)*

## **Readings for Monday's SEAC meeting**

<https://nebula.wsimg.com/225574f1772c0f0ef364476a1ef5f2ee?AccessKeyId=9D6F6082FE5EE52C3DC6&disposition=0&alloworigin=1> - Inclusive Education: A Primer

[http://www.sccoe.org/depts/students/inclusion-collaborative/Documents/Person-First\\_Language\\_Article.pdf](http://www.sccoe.org/depts/students/inclusion-collaborative/Documents/Person-First_Language_Article.pdf) - To Ensure Inclusion, Freedom, and Respect for all, it's time to embrace People First Language

<http://www.disabilityisnatural.com/images/PDF/mainstream.pdf> - Mainstreaming, Integration, Inclusion: Is There a Difference?

<https://nebula.wsimg.com/caea4b002c7503c6e16eb9ea90207571?AccessKeyId=9D6F6082FE5EE52C3DC6&disposition=0&alloworigin=1> - A New Way of Thinking

<https://nebula.wsimg.com/d2da928bdcdec774f6254d1756185396?AccessKeyId=9D6F6082FE5EE52C3DC6&disposition=0&alloworigin=1> - The Case against 'Special Needs'

<https://nebula.wsimg.com/08a4704221dd60fc88c198a318084790?AccessKeyId=9D6F6082FE5EE52C3DC6&disposition=0&alloworigin=1> - No, Not "Special"... They are Ordinary Needs"

<https://nebula.wsimg.com/79ec226bf14dc269baf24fede04871ad?AccessKeyId=9D6F6082FE5EE52C3DC6&disposition=0&alloworigin=1> - Environment, Environment, Environment

<https://nebula.wsimg.com/177be4b07a00388e77cc1dba64d54e07?AccessKeyId=9D6F6082FE5EE52C3DC6&disposition=0&alloworigin=1> - A Time for Thanks

[http://www.ctf-fce.ca/Research-Library/Issue6\\_Article1\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ctf-fce.ca/Research-Library/Issue6_Article1_EN.pdf) - Connection between Inclusion and Health

Full Report: [http://en.copian.ca/library/research/ccl/inclusive\\_edu\\_know/inclusive\\_edu\\_know.pdf](http://en.copian.ca/library/research/ccl/inclusive_edu_know/inclusive_edu_know.pdf) -