

Hansard Thursday, May 29, 2025

(Take Your MPP to School Week, Bill 33, Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025)

Take Your MPP to School Week

Mr. Steve Clark: I'm pleased to share highlights from my recent visit to Gananoque Secondary School as part of Take Your MPP to School Week.

I was accompanied by director of education Ron Ferguson, superintendent Lori Taylor, and trustees John McAllister and Michel LaBonté.

We were warmly welcomed by students and led through the school by principal Christena Harrow, whose passion for student success was clear throughout the visit.

We dropped in on the Power Up Program, where students were getting involved in a lively art project.

We also visited a grade 9 math class, where students were actively engaged in learning the Pythagorean theorem.

Admittedly, I was more in my element speaking with the grade 10 civics and careers class about the role of an MPP and the importance of civic involvement at a young age.

Our tour concluded in the school's hospitality space, which has a well-equipped kitchen facility that supports hands-on learning and career exploration. I learned how the program teaches students more than just food prep. It builds real-world skills like teamwork, time management and customer service that apply not just throughout the kitchen but throughout their life.

Speaker, it was a pleasure to visit Gananoque Secondary School to see first-hand the dedicated students and staff.

I have just one thing to say: Go Trojans!

Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025

Mr. Calandra moved first reading of the following bill:

Bill 33, An Act to amend various Acts in relation to child, youth and family services, education, and colleges and universities.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

First reading agreed to.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Does the minister wish to briefly explain the bill?

Hon. Paul Calandra: Yes, Madam Speaker. This bill, if passed, would strengthen government oversight, accountability and transparency in the public and post-secondary education systems and the child and youth services sector. As part of our plan to protect Ontario, the changes would also help promote the safety and well-being of children and students across the province.

Speaker, parents deserve confidence that school boards are making decisions in the best interests of their children's education, and that's why we are ensuring that every dollar invested delivers results for our students. Along with our partner ministries, the measures we are introducing will build on our government's ongoing work to ensure students, children and youth benefit from the supports they need to reach ultimate achievement.