

## **ETFO statement on Minister Calandra’s March 20, 2026 letter to educators**

ETFO is deeply concerned by the tone and content of the letter issued by Minister Calandra on March 20, 2026, to educators and school board staff.

This letter represents yet another example of this government’s growing pattern of overreach and its willingness to undermine the professional judgment of educators and the role of publicly funded education as a space for critical thinking, inclusion, and democratic engagement. Attempts to narrowly define school events as “apolitical” ignore the realities of students’ lived experiences and the important role that public education plays in fostering informed, engaged citizens.

The Minister’s suggestion that educators’ conduct—both in schools and in public discourse—must be tightly controlled, under threat of intervention, contributes to a climate of fear and mistrust. Educators are highly trained professionals committed to student well-being, equity, and human rights and do not require heavy-handed directives to uphold these values.

ETFO will continue to stand with its members in defending their professional judgement, their right to speak out against injustice, and to advocate for an equitable and inclusive public education system.