

# SAFETY IN SCHOOLS CALLS TO ACTION

In schools across Simcoe County, there are mounting reports of hatred and violence regarding gender, race, anti-black racism, homophobia and more, with little or no accountability from the school boards within Simcoe County or the schools where incidents took place. It has become clear that our youth are in danger at the very institutions we entrust with their safety and education. In regards to SCDSB alone:

- The Code of Conduct states, "The board recognizes that all members of the school community have the right to be safe and to feel safe in their school community. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school climate."
- The Code of Conduct further states that it is the responsibility of every school in Simcoe County to foster a "Positive School Climate" in which "mutual acceptance and inclusion" and "a culture of respect" are cultivated and Protected.
- The SCDSB Policy 4250 - Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour is designed to "support a safe, inclusive, and accepting learning and teaching environment in which every student can reach their full potential" where "all inappropriate student behaviour, including bullying and conflict" is addressed with "a continuum of prevention programs, interventions, supports, and consequences, building upon strategies that build skills for healthy relationships and promote positive behaviours."

Recent events have demonstrated that schools in Simcoe County have failed to foster a "positive school climate" as there have been multiple incidents of inappropriate student behaviour. This behaviour, which includes "bullying and conflict" has not been addressed effectively. As a result, there are students who are being denied their right "to be safe in their school community." Since the Code and these policies are not currently being followed, UPlift Black, Parents Against Racism - Simcoe County, and Parent's of Black Children, along with members of the community and concerned parents demand change through the following Calls To Action:

1. Reform the Education Act
2. Decolonize the Curriculum
3. Implement Graduation Coaches
4. Conduct Equity Audits for School Boards
5. Replace Police with Mental Health Workers
6. Develop and Mandate AR/ABR/AO Training
7. Collect Race-Based Achievement and Discipline Data
8. Provide Funding for System Navigators
9. Hold Teachers/Staff Accountable
10. Hire Staff from within Equity-Seeking Groups