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## 'Safe Schools Action Team' to advise education ministry

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**KRISTIN RUSHOWY**  
STAFF REPORTER

Ontario's education ministry has asked a group of experts to look at how to prevent sexual harassment, gender-based violence and homophobia in schools.

Education Minister Kathleen Wynne, speaking at a safe schools conference yesterday, said the Safe Schools Action Team will look at ways to make it easier for victims to report such incidents.

The move comes after a report found that sexual harassment and violence against girls was happening all too often in Toronto schools.

A recent study out of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health found that almost half of female high school students in southwestern Ontario were subjected to sexual comments or gestures and that one-third had been touched in a sexual manner at school.

The team is headed by MPP Liz Sandals, a former school board trustee and head of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.