

APPENDIX A

Ministry of Education

Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



Ontario

March 29, 2018

Ms. Barbara Poplawski
Chair of the Board
Toronto Catholic District School Board
80 Sheppard Avenue East
Toronto ON M2N 6E8
barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org

Dear Ms. Poplawski,

Thank you for your letter dated January 24, 2018 requesting approval for the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) to use its Proceeds of Disposition (POD) for the purpose of implementing a phased program to undertake program-related improvements to build new, larger gymnasiums at several of the board's schools.

Under *Ontario Regulation 193/10 – Restricted Purpose Revenues* (O. Reg. 193/10), POD funds are designated to be used to address school renewal needs. However, school boards may also request an exemption from the Minister to use POD funding for other purposes under O. Reg. 193/10. Such requests are assessed on the basis of a business case made by the board for a particular project.

The Ministry of Education recognizes that several TCDSB schools are facing constraints with respect to the size of their existing gymnasiums. In your letter, you noted that the TCDSB had approved a priority ranking in November 2017 to determine where gym expansions should occur based on an evaluation matrix approved in June 2017. Since that time, board staff have informed my ministry that the TCDSB is working to re-prioritize this list of school gymnasiums to account for recent funding approvals for child care additions to some schools.

I appreciate that proceeding with potential gym expansions concurrently with child care additions could allow the board to leverage efficiencies in the construction process, and may allow for additional renewal work to take place concurrently.

As such, I would be prepared to grant an exemption under O.Reg 193/10 to allow the TCDSB to use POD to expand gymnasiums at the following sites where childcare additions have been approved, subject to a proper assessment of specific requests.

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We look forward to receiving information on the following sites contained in your last submission:

- Father Serra Catholic School
- St. Bernard Catholic School
- St. Kevin Catholic School
- St. Margaret Catholic School

As with any request from a school board, the ministry will require that the TCDSB provide a reconciliation of its unencumbered POD and prepare a properly costed business case to indicate how any gymnasium-related investment of POD would demonstrate merit over general school renewal needs. I encourage the TCDSB to submit these details as soon as possible.

I understand that on April 12, 2018, the TCDSB will be reviewing a re-prioritized list of schools with child care capital funding approvals that may require potential gymnasium expansions. The ministry looks forward to receiving this information as part of the TCDSB's formal request, and remain open to considering additional requests at a future date based on your local needs and priorities.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I trust that this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Indira Naidoo-Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Indira" being the most prominent part.

Indira Naidoo-Harris
Minister

cc. R. McGuckin, Director of Education
D. Koenig, Associate Director, Academic Affairs
L. Noronha, Executive Superintendent of Business Services and CFO
TCDSB Trustees
TCDSB Superintendents