



REPORT TO

CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

TORONTO HYDRO VAULT ACCESS CHARGES (ALL WARDS)

*"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13 (NRSVCE)*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
December 4, 2018	December 12, 2018	
K. Elgharbawy, Senior Coordinator, Maintenance and Energy Management P. de Cock, Comptroller, Business Services D. Friesen, (Acting) Executive Superintendent of Facilities Services		
<h3>RECOMMENDATION REPORT</h3>		

Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



Rory McGuckin
Director of Education

D. Koenig
Associate Director
of Academic Affairs

T. Robins
Acting Associate Director
of Planning and Facilities

L. Noronha
Executive Superintendent
of Business Services and
Chief Financial Officer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A notice was received from Toronto Hydro that effective January 1, 2019 a PIA (Person in Attendance) charge will be applied to all required hydro vault access appointments, resulting in an estimated **\$100,000.00** increase in the Board's annual maintenance budget. This report recommends that the Chair of the Board of Trustees send a letter to the Board of Directors of Toronto Hydro, with copies to the Minister of Education and the Premier's Office, to request that Toronto Hydro maintain the practice of providing one annual hydro vault access free-of-charge to school boards.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 3 hours.

B. PURPOSE

Action by the Chair of the Board of Trustees is requested to protest an unfair increase in Toronto Hydro charges that will have an unforeseen significant impact on the Board's Operating budget.

C. BACKGROUND

1. Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) owns and maintains 71 hydro vaults board-wide. Each hydro vault is equipped with a heat detector that the Board is obliged to test as part of requirements to obtain current fire certificates and remain in good standing with Toronto Fire. Hydro vaults may also contain floor drains and sump pumps, which the Maintenance department is responsible for maintaining. Additional vault care includes ensuring the structural integrity of the vault is sound, accessibility is not restricted, grading surfaces do not pose hazards, and fire alarm devices are in good working order.
2. Although the hydro vaults are owned by the TCDSB, access to enter the vaults is controlled by Toronto Hydro. The current arrangement allows for one free access appointment per vault each year. If any further access is required, TCDSB is charged an hourly rate to provide access.
3. On November 9, 2018, TCDSB received notice from Toronto Hydro that effective January 1, 2019 a PIA (Person in Attendance) charge will be applied

to all required access appointments (refer to Appendix A). There will no longer be one annual access appointment provided free-of-charge.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. In order to reduce hydro vault access costs, staff currently schedule vault repairs to take place simultaneously with the testing of the fire devices. Taking advantage of the annual free access, staff are typically able to complete repairs and test the fire devices without incurring any additional costs.
2. Based on an average hourly rate of \$400.00 dollars per hour, the change to Toronto Hydro's vault access charges will result in a minimum additional annual cost of over **\$100,000.00** for TCDSB Maintenance Department.
3. Due to the short notice provided by Toronto Hydro of the new hydro vault access charges, this is an unforeseen cost to the 2018-2019 Operations and Maintenance budget. This additional cost will detract from the other important services under the Maintenance umbrella. This will negatively impact the condition of the Board's facilities and the comfort, health and safety of students and staff.

E. ACTION PLAN

1. Staff have sent a letter to the Toronto Hydro Municipal, Academic, Social and Health Care Account Representative outlining the Board's concerns with the new charges and requesting an exemption for school boards (refer to Appendix B.)

F. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Chair of the Board of Trustees send a letter to the Board of Directors of Toronto Hydro, with copies to the Minister of Education and the Premier's Office, to request that one annual hydro vault access remain free-of-charge for school boards.