



December 7, 2018  
Via Email: [danderson@torontohydro.com](mailto:danderson@torontohydro.com)  
(hard copy to follow by mail)

Toronto Hydro  
P.O. Box 125  
Suite 2700, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5G 2C8

Attention: Dean Anderson. Lead  
CDM Business Development

Dear Mr. Anderson:

**RE: New Hydro Vault Access Charges**

On November 9, 2018, Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) received a notice from Toronto Hydro that effective January 1, 2019 a PIA (Person in Attendance) charge will be applied to all required hydro vault access appointments. Previously, one annual hydro vault access was provided free-of-charge.

The school board requires access to all hydro vaults located within its facilities a minimum of once a year in order to test fire devices as part of our annual fire alarm system certification. 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. Funding for school board maintenance and operations costs is fixed annually on a per-pupil basis and the budget for the 2018-2019 school/fiscal year, based on the Grant for Student Needs, was finalized in June 2018. The short notice of the new charge does not allow for any additional funding from the Ministry to account for the additional cost.

The imposition of this additional cost at this time will require diversion of funds required for the maintenance of our schools. This will negatively impact the condition of the Board's facilities and the comfort, health and safety of students and staff.

We request that Toronto Hydro provide an exemption to this change in hydro vault access charges for publicly funded school boards. At the very least, we request that the implementation of this additional charge be deferred until January 2020 for school boards, so that the Ministry of Education can address this additional cost in the operating grants provided to school boards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Friesen", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Deborah Friesen  
Acting Executive Superintendent of Facilities Services

cc: R. McGuckin, Director of Education, TCDSB  
T. Robins, Associate Director of Planning, Facilities and Stewardship, TCDSB  
K. Elgharbawy, Senior Coordinator of Maintenance, TCDSB  
L. Hart, CDM Key Account Consultant, Toronto Hydro  
S. Shaw, Executive Officer, Facilities and Planning, Toronto District School Board