

Office of the Minister  
of Finance



Cabinet du ministre  
des Finances

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G5

2018FIN481288

JAN 15 2019

Ms. Maria Rizzo  
Chair of the Board  
Toronto Catholic District School Board  
paola.botticella@tcdsb.org

Dear Ms. Rizzo:

On behalf of the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Bill Morneau, I acknowledge receipt of your correspondence of December 6, 2018.

I will ensure that your correspondence is brought to the Minister's attention as soon as possible.

In the meantime, should you have any questions or wish to enquire as to the status of your correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 613-369-5696.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Allie Chalke'.

Allie Chalke  
Policy Advisor  
The Office of the Honourable Bill Morneau – Minister of Finance

Canada



*Office of the Chair of the Board*

December 6, 2018

The Honourable William Francis Morneau  
Department of Finance Canada  
90 Elgin Street  
House of Commons  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
[bill.morneau@canada.ca](mailto:bill.morneau@canada.ca)

Dear Minister:

I am writing on behalf our Board of Trustees to express our deep concern regarding Bill C-44, which comes into force on January 1, 2019. This new tax rule unfairly treats elected school board trustees as they attempt to carrying out their full duties in support of parents and families with children attending Toronto Catholic District School Board schools.

School board trustees, as well as municipally elected officials, previously qualified for a tax exemption on one-third of their honorarium. Beginning with the 2019 taxation year, a school trustee's honorarium will be fully taxed as income, which will negatively impact any reasonable concept of fair compensation. This also creates the unfortunate consequence of punishing those of us who spend long hours working diligently representing and advocating for our school communities.

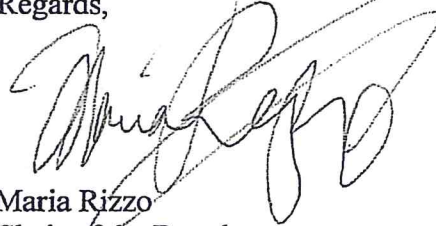
On average our TCDSB school trustees receive under \$19,000, well below the salary received by elected municipal officials who are relatively well compensated with salaries over \$110,000. Comparatively, our Board of Trustees manage a \$1.2 billion annual budget (equivalent to City of Winnipeg budget of \$1.08 B), employ some 13,000 full/part-time employees in the education of over 91,000 students in 200 school sites, and serve over half-a-million Catholic ratepayers. Clearly the removal of this tax exemption should not have targeted school board trustees.

We are urging you to rescind the final implementation of this section of C-44. Should this not be possible, we request that the Ontario Minister of Finance, in consultation with the Minister of Education (EDU) Lisa Thompson, amend O. Reg. 357/06 to establish a new base amount limit for school board trustee honoraria. This revised limit should use a formula that increases the honoraria by an amount equal to the one-third tax-free allowance.

Canada's democratic electoral process was founded on the concept of fairness for all. Not addressing this gross inequity will severely deter well-qualified individuals from serving in the public interest, which will continue to erode the very democratic institutions created to represent the dreams and aspirations of Canadians who rely on publicly-funded education.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your response.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Rizzo', written over a faint horizontal line.

Maria Rizzo  
Chair of the Board

Copy: Prime Minister's Office  
Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education  
Nick Milanetti, Director OCSTA  
Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Victor Fidelli, Minister of Finance  
All TCDSB Trustees  
Rory McGuckin, Director of Education