



TECT Delegation to the Board of Trustees September 10, 2020

I welcome and wish Dr. Browne all the best.

Thanks to the Trustees for all the time and effort dedicated to planning a safer reopening of schools.

Despite our collective efforts, I still have grave concerns.

It is not comforting that the government boasts that this is the safest plan in the country when medical experts remind us that with the reopening of schools some staff and students will likely contract this deadly virus.

It is like saying, rest assured we have the safest plan for sending you into the lion's den. A better plan - keep us out of the lion's den.

Next week, the children are back in school and our government tells us, "If a challenge arises, we will be decisive." This "roll-the-dice" approach is reckless and unacceptable. It will be too late to be decisive once our students and staff start contracting and spreading COVID-19.

This dire situation has been made worse by a Board decision to collapse and combine classes. So many classes now have too many students to enable physical distancing. Ask for and review the class size data. It will be clear that this approach will not only put staff and students at risk, but it will limit the ability of students to move back and forth between in-school learning and the Virtual School.

Members have also informed us that not all the necessary health and safety protocols are fully implemented in every worksite and this must be immediately remedied.

Some teachers have not been provided with medical grade masks and there are unresolved ventilation issues that still exist in many of our schools and worksites.

Some teachers have told TECT that they have not been informed of the possibility of requesting plexiglass for their classroom.

I do not believe students will be returning to a safe in-school environment. Once again it is up to the Trustees to take immediate decisive action. The current conditions must be changed. Otherwise the possibility of many in our school communities becoming sick, and perhaps dying will significantly increase.