



## FIX OUR SCHOOLS Campaign

We are a grassroots, non-partisan, parent-led campaign creating a large network of citizens across Ontario who all expect that:

- ✂ Ontario's publicly-funded schools are safe, well-maintained buildings for the 2-million students who attend them
- ✂ The \$15-billion of disrepair across all 72 Ontario school boards is addressed
- ✂ Publicly-funded schools are funded as critical public infrastructure - on par with transit

## Learning IMPACT of disrepair:

Research shows that school conditions impact student achievement, health and attendance<sup>1</sup>:

**on 2-million students who attend publicly-funded schools in Ontario**

- Classrooms 10°C in winter / over 30°C degrees in spring & fall ► learning and focus challenging
- Washrooms that children refuse to use ► health issues such as bladder infections
- Leaking ceilings ► student distraction
- opportunity for mould growth and associated health risks

## Catastrophic IMPACT of disrepair:

It is the invisible types of disrepair that put student safety at the greatest risk:

**Many repair items pertain to fire suppression/alarm systems, electrical systems, heating/cooling systems and structural issues.**

- ✂ 6-year old student's head injury due to washroom door breaking
- ✂ Auditorium ceiling collapsing during school hours
- ✂ Fire exit blocked because outdoor steps collapse
- ✂ Lead in school water supply forcing closure of school water fountains <sup>2</sup>

## Community IMPACT of disrepair:

Besides students, those also impacted by disrepair in publicly-funded schools include:

**on the hundreds of thousands who also use school buildings**

- Children in daycare programs in schools
- Teachers and school staff
- School administrators
- Citizens who rely on schools as community hubs





## Funding FACTS:

- ▶ **Every single one of our 72 school boards** is impacted by the \$15-billion capital repair backlog in Ontario's publicly-funded schools
- ▶ **Critical and urgent disrepair now totals \$1.7-billion**, as per Ontario's Auditor-General <sup>3</sup>
- ▶ Maintenance in publicly-funded schools **over the last five years was underfunded \$5.8-billion** <sup>3</sup>
- ▶ Reactive repairs are estimated to cost 173% more than proactive repairs <sup>4</sup>

	AG confirmed needed	Province provided	Underfunding for year
2015/16	1400000000	500000000	900000000
2014/15	1400000000	250000000	1150000000
2013/14	1400000000	150000000	1250000000
2012/13	1400000000	150000000	1250000000
2011/12	1400000000	150000000	1250000000
<b>Total 5 year</b>	<b>\$ 7 billion</b>	<b>\$ 1.2 billion</b>	<b>\$ 5.8 billion</b>

## CURRENT Funding solutions:

GROSSLY INSUFFICIENT TO DECREASE REPAIR BACKLOG

Commitment of \$11-Billion over 10 years **cannot repair AND rebuild Ontario's schools**

- Selling schools ▶ conflicts with goal of realizing public assets as community hubs
- ▶ is a long process that requires provincial co-operation
- ▶ offers an incomplete funding solution

## Funding solutions TO EXPLORE:

SHORT TERM

- ☀ **Revise O. Reg. 20/98** to allow all School Boards to access Education Development Charges (EDCs) and use these monies for repairs, capital projects or land purchase
- ☀ Allocate some of the promised **new federal infrastructure funding** to increase investment in repairing and rebuilding Ontario's publicly-funded schools
- ☀ Allocate the capital costs of maintaining school buildings (and associated green spaces) used as Community Hubs, **in proportion to usage** by school boards, municipalities & various Ministries





## Funding solutions TO EXPLORE: LONG TERM

- ☀️ Secure a long-term, sustainable funding source to maintain schools as critical public infrastructure
- ☀️ Develop health & safety standards for children in schools - much like the workplace health and safety standards for adults - and fund those standards accordingly

## Further recommendations

TO HELP ADDRESS DISREPAIR IN PUBLICLY-FUNDED SCHOOLS:

- ☀️ Publish the capital repair backlogs for every publicly-funded school within every Ontario school board once per year so that Ontario citizens have access to this information
- ☀️ Establish guidelines for the desired condition at which facilities should be maintained
- ☀️ Provide constructive & comparable feedback to every Ontario School Board on its capital plan. Trustees, staff and parents deserve transparency on where their School Board stands in the eyes of the Province in terms of “efficient use of space”

## Our ask of TCDSB Trustees

- ☀️ Promote the Fix Our Schools campaign to parents (we can send materials to assist)
- ☀️ Work with parents in your Ward to set up meetings with your MPP (Fix Our Schools can support these meetings)

## Our ask of TCDSB Staff

- ☀️ Work together with Fix Our Schools to share information and insights, as appropriate

<sup>1</sup>School Environment Impact Research Study, 2014: <https://www.ossf.on.ca/en-CA/publications/research-studies/school-environment.aspx>

<sup>2</sup>Canadian Journal of Public Health, March/April 2011, “Lead in School Drinking Water: Canada Can and Should Address This Important Ongoing Exposure Source”, Prabjit Barn, MSc, Tom Kosatsky, MD, MPH

<sup>3</sup>Office of the Auditor General of Ontario Annual Report, 2015: [http://www.auditor.on.ca/en/reports\\_en/en15/2015AR\\_en\\_final.pdf](http://www.auditor.on.ca/en/reports_en/en15/2015AR_en_final.pdf)

<sup>4</sup>“Reversing the Cycle of Deterioration in the Nation’s Public School Buildings”, 2014: <http://www.cgcs.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&ModuleInstanceId=312&ViewID=7b97f7ed-8e5e-4120-848f-a8b4987d588f&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=1643&PageID=257>