



REPORT TO

## CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

### COMMUNITY HUBS CAPITAL FUNDING FOR MINOR RETROFITS AND ACCESSIBILITY

*And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible,  
but with God all things are possible."*

*Matthew 19:26*

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#### INFORMATION REPORT

##### 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.*



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## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides information on the Ministry of Education announcement regarding the Community Hubs Capital Funding for Minor Retrofits and Accessibility initiative.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board has been allocated \$1,684,748 to retrofit available space in existing schools for use by new community partners/expand existing community hub spaces in schools, or improve the accessibility of schools to allow greater opportunities for use by the community.

*The cumulative staff time dedicated to developing this report was 14.5 hours.*

## **B. BACKGROUND**

1. On May 6, 2016, the Ministry announced four separate capital funding initiatives to support community hubs in schools (*Appendix 'A'*), including:
  - \$20 million to create space for new child care and child/family support programs;
  - \$18 million to retrofit existing child care space within a school to create additional spaces for children under four years old; and
  - \$50 million to renovate surplus school space to make it available for use by community partners and the public.
2. On October 14, 2016, the Ministry released Memorandum 2016:B8 *Community Hubs Capital Funding: Minor Retrofits and Accessibility* (*Appendix 'B'*), which provided details on the \$50 million capital funding initiative to support the expansion of community hub use in schools.
3. The TCDSB was allocated a total of \$1,684,748 from this initiative, with the funds to be used to retrofit available space in schools into community hub space and improve the accessibility of schools to allow greater opportunities for use by the community.
4. The memorandum from the Ministry broadens the Community Planning and Partnerships Guidelines, and as set out in TCDSB Community and Planning Partnerships Policy B.R.07.

## **C. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS**

1. The \$1,684,748 allocated to the TCDSB from this initiative can only be used to:
  - Retrofit available school space into space for use by a new community partner(s) or expand existing community hubs spaces in schools; or
  - Improve the accessibility of a school to enable use by a broader range of community partners.
2. It is important to note that these funds cannot be spent on the following:
  - To expand the existing building footprint or gross floor area;
  - In a school that is scheduled to close within the next five years;
  - To undertake capital work to accommodate a child care or child and family support program operator; and
  - To make space available exclusively for use after regular school day hours
3. The payments to school boards will be made twice a year based on reported expenditures:
  - Expenditures from September 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 (and reported by April 2017) will be paid in June 2017; and
  - Expenditures from April 1, 2017 to August 31, 2017 (and reported by October 31, 2017) will be paid in February 2018.
4. Furthermore, the Memorandum sets out communications protocols for projects undertaken with this funding. School boards should not issue a news released or any other media-focused public communication associated with this initiative without publicly recognizing the Ministry of Education's role in funding the project.

The intent is to secure as much coverage for these events as possible, and in doing so, help promote the role of both the Ministry of Education and the school board in bringing exciting new capital projects to local communities.
5. Board staff will evaluate all potential options in order to maximize the use of this funding, and determine the best opportunities to create or expand community hubs.

## **D. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This report is for the consideration of the Board.