

Ministry of Education

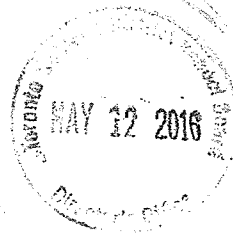
Ministère de l'Éducation

Minister

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RECEIVED

MAY 14 2016

Assistant Director Planning and Facilities

May 9, 2016

Ms. Angela Kennedy
Chair of the Board
Toronto Catholic District School Board
80 Sheppard Avenue East
Toronto ON M2N 6E8

Dear Ms. Kennedy,

Thank you for your letter about climate change and your board's interest in working toward net zero energy consumption in schools. Although the Ministry of Education does not have a funding program in place to specific to net zero energy consumption, I appreciate the opportunity to address school buildings energy efficiency and highlight how various ministry funding programs contribute to the pursuit of this goal.

There is no doubt that capital funding for schools is one of the most important infrastructure investments we can make. Since 2003, we have invested \$13.9 billion in school infrastructure and renewal, including nearly 755 new schools and more than 720 additions and renovations. We have significantly increased annual funding provided to address the costs of repairing and renovating schools and to help keep schools in good condition.

Our investments include \$1.25 billion over three years for the School Improvement Condition (SCI) program to keep schools in a good state of repair. For this school year, the Toronto Catholic District School Board is receiving about \$18 million of this funding. Also, this year, the Board is benefiting from about \$15.5 million through annual School Renewal Allocation funding. This funding supports the cost of repairing and replacing school components such as windows and heating/cooling systems with more efficient models.

In addition, the ministry has made significant investments in developing tools and resources to support school boards in managing their energy efficiency targets, including the Utility Consumption Data base, as well as the technical expertise provided by both the Energy Conservation Officer and the Incentive Programs Advisor.

One important way for boards to manage energy consumption is to manage underutilized space. When boards right-size their schools, they reduce operating and capital costs, and use energy more efficiently.

Our government understands and supports the importance of building energy-efficient and sustainable infrastructure, including schools. When a new school is built to replace an old one in poor condition, school boards reduce their energy footprints. Current building standards are energy conscious and environmentally sensitive, and our ministry has increased funding benchmarks to ensure that boards can build schools to these higher standards. These benchmarks support energy efficient elements such as windows, lighting, and heating/cooling systems in new schools.

You may be interested to know that the majority of boards have reported to the ministry that their newly constructed schools have exceeded the minimum energy efficiency standards in the Ontario Building Code.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and express your interest in energy efficiency. I trust that together, we can continue to work toward reducing energy consumption in our schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Sandals". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a stylized "S".

Liz Sandals
Minister