



**REPORT TO**

**REGULAR BOARD**

## MINISTRY MEMO - 2017:B09 – PLAN TO STRENGTHEN RURAL AND NORTHERN EDUCATION

*“They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share” 1 Timothy 6:18*

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July 4, 2017	August 24, 2017	Click here to enter a date.
B. Leporati, Senior Manager, Planning and Admissions J. Volek, Acting Comptroller of Planning and Development Services		
<b>INFORMATION REPORT</b>		

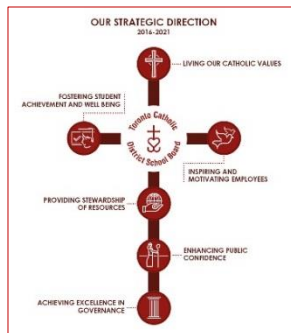
**Vision:**

*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.*



Rory McGuckin  
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 Executive Superintendent of Business Services and Chief Financial Officer

## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Ministry of Education recently released the memorandum *2017:B09 – Plan to Strengthen Rural and Northern Education* dated June 28, 2017. The memo is primarily focused on a provision of funding to allow rural and northern boards to maintain, operate, equip and staff small and/or underutilized schools. As the TCDSB and TDSB are urban school boards, they will not be eligible to receive this stream of funding.

However, additional measures have been introduced that will have an impact on the TCDSB, specifically with regard to the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines (PARG) as well as the Community Planning and Partnerships Guidelines (CPPG) and their related processes. Details of the impact to TCDSB are outlined in the body of this report.

## **B. PURPOSE**

The Ministry memo *2017:B09 – Plan to Strengthen Rural and Northern Education*, although primarily focused on a provision of funding to allow rural and northern boards, outlines additional measures to revise the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines (PARG) as well as the Community Planning and Partnerships Guidelines (CPPG) and their related processes. This report outlines the impact to TCDSB.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. The provision of \$20M in funding to better support rural education and rural communities is the focus of this announcement. As the TCDSB and TDSB are urban school Boards, they will not be eligible to receive this funding.
2. Although this funding stream is not available to TCDSB there are provisions and incentives for boards to share space (Joint-Use facilities) and intended revisions to both the PARG and CPPG and their related processes. Each board involved in a joint use proposal, upon approval, will receive an allocation of \$20,000 to support legal, consulting and facilitation services as well as being eligible for up to \$100,000 to fund one joint-use Project Manager per project.

3. The Ministry will revise its current PARG in order to create a stronger, more collaborative process which promotes the well-being of students and addresses the impact of school closures on communities.
4. The Ministry will seek input on a revised version of its PARG in the fall of 2017. Proposed amendments to the PARG include longer timelines, more recommended pupil accommodation options, clear roles for Trustees and municipal governments, and an increased student voice. Upon release of the new guidelines, TCDSB will revise its Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) policy to reflect the latest guidelines.
5. Boards will not be required to reconsider recent PAR decisions. No new PARs will be initiated until the revisions and policy updates are complete, unless required to support a joint-use school initiative between two school boards. It is anticipated that revisions to the guidelines and policy will not be complete until late 2018 or early 2019.
6. There will be a report to Board in the fall 2017 considering the impact of revisions to the PARG on the Pupil Accommodation Review Cycles-2 and 3. Two Cycle-2 PARs remain pending under the current PAR policy. Boards can choose whether to continue these under the current policy or to suspend the process pending revisions to the PARG and PAR policies. The school grouping and status of each PAR is as follows:
  - ***Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, Sacred Heart, St. Bede and St. Gabriel Lalemant*** –
    - All meeting requirements of the policy have been satisfied
    - Community informed at last public meeting that reporting would begin in the fall.
    - Staff will recommend the closure of St. Gabriel Lalemant.
    - The community has voiced opposition to a closure, however have consulted on options should a closure occur.
  - ***St. Rene Goupil, Prince of Peace and The Divine Infant*** –
    - Review process in this area has been suspended due to the introduction of a Multi-Language program at St. Rene Goupil.
    - The Multi-Language school did not receive sufficient interest for implementation in the 2017-18 school year.
    - Registration will be offered in the 2018-19 program as part of the regular FDK registration period beginning in January of 2018.

6. Revisions to the CPPG will begin in early fall 2017 through consultation with stakeholders. Boards are expected to update their Community Planning and Partnership (CPP) policy to include any revisions to the CPPG. Additional capital funding has been provided through the Capital Priorities funding stream to promote community use of schools.

#### **D. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This report is for the consideration of the Board.