

Ministry of Education

Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



October 12, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware, in June of this year, Ontario launched its Plan to Strengthen Rural and Northern Education. The feedback received from school board and municipal partners was central to the development of this plan, which comprised process improvements and funding enhancements designed to better support: quality rural education; sustainable use of school space in rural communities; and decision-making around school closures. Thank you for your important contributions to this work. We are now writing to request your support during the next phase of the plan's implementation.

As part of the plan, the Ministry of Education committed to revising its Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG) and Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline (CPPG). While the government's rural and Northern education engagement focused primarily on rural and Northern communities, we heard that the pupil accommodation review process for all school boards requires an overhaul. That is why, this fall, the Ministry of Education will begin the process of revising its PARG to promote inclusion of community impact alongside the focus on student achievement and well-being.

In addition, the Ministry of Education will also be revising its Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline (CPPG) to encourage joint responsibility for integrated community planning, with a focus on communication between school boards, municipal governments and community partners about boards' capital plans.

We invite you to provide your feedback on the proposed revisions to the PARG and CPPG online at, www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/reviewguide.html.

We will also be engaging Ontario's four trustee associations, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) to set up a reference group that will provide advice on these matters. For more information on this reference group, I encourage your boards or councils to contact the relevant organization.

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Your input will once again be invaluable, as we build on our work to support students and communities in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MH' with a large, stylized flourish.

Mitzie Hunter, MBA
Minister of Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bob' with a large, stylized flourish.

Bob Chiarelli
Minister of Infrastructure