



**MARIA RIZZO**  
*Trustee, Ward 5*

*Email: maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org*

*Voice Mail/Fax: (416) 512-3405*

**Thursday, November 2, 2017**

**Re: Ontario's School Repairs and Maintenance Backlog**

**Dear Trustee Colleagues,**

**The alarming state of disrepair in Ontario's schools was highlighted in a 2015 Ontario's Auditor-General's report which detailed chronic government underfunding to all of the provinces school boards.**

*“An independent assessment calculated that the Ministry of Education needs \$1.4 billion a year to maintain schools in a state of good repair. However, actual funding in the last five years has ranged from \$150 million to \$500 million.”*

**In the three years between 2011 - 2014, provincial funding to school boards for school renewal was only \$150 million per year - roughly one-tenth of what the Auditor's Report indicated was needed.**

**Because of the serious inadequacy of the government's public education funding formula, the choice for Ontario's school boards has most often been to defer maintenance expenditures and renewal investments so as to protect school programs.**

**This growing crisis was highlighted in the December 2002 report of the Education Equality Task Force (known as the Rozanski Report). That report identified a deferred maintenance backlog estimated at \$5.6 billion and growing.**

**Despite several rounds of special funding aimed at school facility renewal over the ensuing 15 years, the backlog, as measured by the Ministry itself, has grown consistently, and is now well over \$15 billion. Even this figure is an understatement. Of the 4,636 schools in the detailed database released in 2017, no data on renewal needs was reported for 346, of which 284 schools were shown as not having been assessed**

**The Campaign for Public Education commissioned a comprehensive study of Ontario's school repairs and maintenance backlog.**

**Economist, Hugh Mackenzie will release his report on November 14th at a 10am press conference in the Media Studio of Queens Park. His report will detail how the next Ontario government could eliminate the school repairs and maintenance problem.**

**Building on the Mackenzie report, and in conjunction with *Fix Our Schools*, the Campaign for Public Education (CPE) will launch a province wide campaign to eliminate the repairs and maintenance backlog in Ontario's schools.**

**I am asking trustees, staff and parents to attend on Tuesday November 14th.**

**Sincerely,**



**Maria Rizzo  
Trustee, Ward 5**