

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



February 14, 2018

Ms. Barbara Poplawski

Chair

Toronto Catholic District School Board
barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org

Dear Chair Poplawski,

I would like to thank all the involved parties for their hard work in conducting the consultation into the Dante Alighieri Academy Catholic Secondary School proposal. I understand that the Toronto Catholic District School Board has made a decision to further consider the results of the public consultation on the joint partnership with Villa Charities Inc. for a school and community centre on the site of the Columbus Centre. It is important for decision-makers at all levels to get a full assessment on the proposed project.

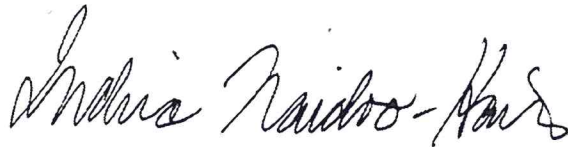
Following discussions with my caucus colleagues copied here, I understand that significant concerns still exist regarding the potential demolition of the historic Columbus Centre, given its historical importance to Ontario's Italian-Canadian community. I also understand the City of Toronto is exploring a heritage designation for the site. Given some of the considerations raised and the division that still exists over this project, it is our government's position that the board should consider a new path forward for this project. As such, I am writing to inform you that the Ministry of Education will not support a school project that allows for the demolition of the historic Columbus Centre.

.../2

I would like to assure you that our government is still committed to finding an appropriate accommodation solution for this school community. I understand that the board currently owns property adjacent to the Columbus Centre. My ministry is willing to work quickly with the board to use the previously approved funding allocation of \$32.8 million to support student needs, should trustees decide to move forward with an alternative proposal.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Indira Naidoo-Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Indira" being more prominent and the last name "Naidoo-Harris" following in a similar style.

Indira Naidoo-Harris
Minister of Education
Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care

- c. Mike Colle, MPP Eglinton-Lawrence
- Laura Albanese, MPP York South-Weston
- Mario Sergio, MPP York West
- Rory McGukin, Director, Toronto Catholic District School Board
- Maria Rizzo, Trustee, Ward 5, Toronto Catholic District School Board