



ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION

Leading Education's Advocates

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Cathy Abraham
President

W.R. (Rusty) Hick
Executive Director

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education

Dear Minister Lecce,

I am writing today to draw your attention to an issue of importance to Ontario's public school boards that is somewhat time-sensitive. As you may be aware, as part of its carbon pricing initiative, the Government of Canada has created a Climate Action Incentive Fund for Schools.

With this new program, the federal government is proposing to provide \$40.9 million dollars for energy efficiency investments in Ontario's schools. The proposed funding allocation formula would provide funding to every school board in the province according to a per-student formula that accounts for the needs of rural boards. The federal government is proposing to contribute up to 40 percent toward the eligible costs of projects undertaken by Ontario school boards. There is no requirement for the Government of Ontario to provide matching funds. In order for Ontario's school boards to access these funds, the Government of Canada has requested that it be advised by **July 19, 2019** of Ontario's intention to conclude an agreement to flow the funds to Ontario's school boards.

As I'm sure you would agree, access to this funding would help ensure that our school boards are able to invest in cleaner options when upgrading their facilities, thereby reducing operating costs, and allowing boards to reinvest in our students while providing them with an optimal learning environment. It is my understanding that this initiative may be an active subject of discussion between the provincial Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and Environment and Climate Change Canada. It is my hope that you will be able to express your strong support for this initiative to your colleague Minister Yurek (cc'd), who has received communication from his federal counterpart, Minister McKenna.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please let me know if I or the Ontario Public School Boards' Association can be of any further assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Abraham
President
Ontario Public School Boards' Association

cc: The Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks

cc: Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister of Education

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association represents public district school boards and public school authorities across Ontario, which together serve more than 1.3 million public elementary and secondary students. The Association advocates on behalf of the best interests and needs of the public school system in Ontario. OPSBA is seen as the credible voice of public education in Ontario and is routinely called on by the provincial government for input and advice on legislation and the impact of government policy directions.