

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister

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Ministère de l'Éducation

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Memorandum To: Executive Directors of the Trustee Associations

From: Nancy Matthews
Deputy Minister

Date: August 17, 2016

Subject: Release of *One-Year Implementation Update on Community Hubs in Ontario: A Strategic Framework and Action Plan*

I am pleased to circulate the report, *Enabling and Celebrating Community Hubs – One-Year Progress Update on Community Hubs in Ontario: A Strategic Framework and Action Plan*.

The report and news release are now available online at ontario.ca/communityhubs.

The report gives us an opportunity to reflect on the meaningful progress we have made together both at the provincial and local levels.

As you may be aware, the Ministry of Education has been involved in several initiatives, all intended to support community hubs. Specifically:

- amendments to Ontario Regulation 444/98 – *Disposition of Surplus Real Property*, to extend the current surplus school circulation period from 90 days to 180 days and expand the list of public entities to receive notification of surplus school property disposition, amongst other changes; and
- new capital funding initiatives introduced to support the expansion of community hubs in schools.

I would like to thank the individuals and organizations who provided input to inform the work of the Premier's Special Advisor and Advisory Group on Community Hubs, including the various initiatives the ministry has been involved in over the last year.

The mandate of the advisory group was to review provincial policies, research best practices and develop a framework for adapting existing public properties to become community hubs.

In August 2015, the Special Advisor presented the group's findings and recommendations in a report to the government, titled *Community Hubs in Ontario: A Strategic Framework and Action Plan*.

The Special Advisor will continue to work with the Minister of Infrastructure, provincial ministries, including the Ministry of Education and stakeholders to facilitate strategic and focused discussions and bring forward ideas as we implement the recommendations.

Comments or questions about the report and work being undertaken on community hubs in Ontario can be directed to community.hubs@ontario.ca.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Matthews". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Nancy Matthews
Deputy Minister

c: Council of Ontario Directors of Education