

Ministry of Education

Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

Édifce Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



June 27, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, the Government of Ontario has committed to historic investments in infrastructure. Many of these investments are being made in Ontario's education system.

Today I am pleased to announce that school boards will be receiving roughly \$1.1 billion in new funding for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years. This is being provided in addition to the existing capital allocations in an effort to address an area of urgent need — school repair and renewal.

Ontario is home to more than 4,900 public schools that collectively face a significant renewal backlog. Helping school boards address this backlog has been a top priority of our government. That is why, in 2014, the government announced \$1.25 billion in funding over three years for school boards to address the renewal needs of their schools.

Now, we are going even further to help our partners improve the condition of their schools and keep them in a good state of repair. Providing safe and healthy learning environments is an important part of the ministry's vision for student achievement and well-being. We also know that keeping our schools in a good state of repair enhances public confidence in the quality of our publicly-funded education system.

We will be flowing these funds through our annual Grants for Student Needs (GSN) for 2015-16 and 2016-17, as part of the School Renewal Allocation and School Condition Improvement funding. That means this funding is available from the summer, giving you additional flexibility and resources over the summer to ensure the new school year starts with local schools in better condition.

This investment will result in critical improvements to key building components that ensure student safety and improve energy efficiency, like roofing, HVAC, electrical and plumbing systems. It will also significantly improve more visible elements of schools that impact students' well-being and public confidence, including flooring, walls, ceilings, playing fields and more.

To support transparency in this historic investment, the government will publicly post detailed information regarding the condition and renewal needs of each of Ontario's 4,900 public schools by the end of summer.

Ontario's publicly funded education system is one of the best in the world. And with this historic capital investment, we are making sure our facilities are some of the best in the world too.

Since 2003, our government has invested more than \$14 billion in school infrastructure, including nearly 760 new schools and more than 735 additions and renovations. And now, including the funding announced today, we are in the midst of providing school boards with more than \$12 billion to help build more new schools in areas of high growth, improve the condition of existing schools, and invest in projects to reduce surplus space through school consolidations.

Today's announcement is an important part of the largest investment in public infrastructure in the province's history — about \$160 billion, over 12 years. As part of the 2014 Budget, the government committed to this historic investment, which is supporting 110,000 jobs every year across the province.

It is with great confidence that our government delivers these needed investments in education infrastructure. As our partners, you have consistently turned our capital investments into tremendous results for students, families and communities across the province. I look forward to seeing this continue as a result of the additional funding announced today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH', written in a cursive style.

Mitzie Hunter, MBA
Minister

- c: Ontario Public School Boards' Association
- Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association
- Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques
- Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario
- Council of Ontario Directors of Education