



Parents Advocating for Safe, Well-Maintained Schools
in the Toronto District School Board (TDSB)

TO: Kathleen Wynne, Premier; Liz Sandals, Minister of Education;

SUBJECT: Thank You for Stepping In to Help the TDSB

Dear Premier Wynne & Minister Sandals,

Thank you for responding quickly to help resolve the TDSB's current leadership and governance dysfunction. Public servants pointing fingers rather than working together to solve common problems merely frustrate and weaken public trust. Toronto taxpayers have had enough of that. With a new slate of TDSB Trustees starting on Dec. 1st and a \$3.5 Billion maintenance backlog, the time is right for change.

TDSB buildings are in an appalling state: roofs are leaking; windows are ancient; boilers are breaking; soap is unavailable in washrooms for basic hygiene; and basic safety items like fire exit door panic bars are missing. This unacceptable situation impacts students, parents and teachers every day. The current organizational dysfunction has contributed to these issues. However, there are structural issues within the TDSB organization that also deserve attention.

As an immediate step, we urge Ontario's Provincial Government to provide emergency funding to the TDSB to replace all roofs that have leaked at TDSB buildings within the last 18 months and to complete all other repairs documented as urgent.

Considering longer-term opportunities for change, we agree with Minister Sandals that perhaps the TDSB is simply too large to govern effectively. We also believe that some of the TDSB's dysfunction can be attributed to the frustration of Trustees who must govern in an environment where the Ministry holds power over the purse strings and most other aspects of the education system.

Minister Sandals said the independent review would concentrate on ***"how we can make things better at the TDSB going forward"*** and ***"how we can create a board that is more functional"***. We agree with these goals and encourage you to stay focused on the safety, success and well-being of students.

Kind regards,
Krista Wylie – on behalf of Fix Our Schools