

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

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February 4, 2015

Ms. Krista Wylie
emandkrista@sympatico.ca

Dear Ms. Wylie,

Thank you for your email about the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and the renewal needs of its school facilities. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

I can assure you that student health and well-being are of paramount importance to our government, and are among the key goals outlined in the Ministry of Education's renewed vision *Achieving Excellence*. We have made significant investments in renewing Ontario schools to ensure that students have safe and healthy environments in which to learn.

For the 2014-15 school year, the ministry has provided the TDSB with \$45.5 million in funding through the School Renewal Allocation and an additional \$29.4 million in funding through the School Condition Improvement (SCI) initiative to support the board in addressing school renewal investments, and the costs of repairing and renovating its schools. This funding is meant to enable the TDSB to address its highest priority renewal needs including health and safety and facility condition issues.

In your letter, you request emergency funding for TDSB schools. It is important to note that school boards are responsible for determining how to allocate the funding provided by the ministry to ensure that students have safe and healthy learning environments. Under the *Education Act*, locally elected school board trustees are responsible for the provision of suitable and adequate accommodation for students in their jurisdiction. They are also responsible for ensuring that each school is in compliance with all appropriate provincial and municipal health and safety requirements.

I encourage you to discuss your concerns with your school board trustees, who are elected by, and accountable to, the community that they serve.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Sandals".

Liz Sandals
Minister