



300 Dufferin Avenue
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London
CANADA

March 22, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

In October 2023, TVDSB submitted their business cases for the Capital Priorities Program to the Ministry of Education to address the critical school accommodation needs here in London and across the District. In total, TVDSB submitted business case requests for 8 new schools within the district including 4 schools in London. The 4 new schools are in West London, Southwest London, Southeast London and North Central London. The accommodation plan stresses that these are urgent needs for our community as we continue to grow rapidly. New schools will help to address the accommodation pressures, however, these requests will not address the entirety of the overcrowding issues we are seeing at schools in our community.

A few weeks ago, the TVDSB Board Chair shared a letter to Minister Lecce, with Council, in which they draw attention to their requests for a new school in West London and the new school requested in Southwest London. They have raised concerns over the shortage of available school blocks within these two planning areas sited in their 2023/2024 accommodation plan. The board has further outlined:

- A new school for West London with an option period expiring on September 3, 2024,
- A new school in Southwest London with an option period with the City of London expiring on March 29, 2025.

Councillor Hopkins and I are writing today to seek your support for the following motion:

That the Mayor BE REQUESTED to write a letter on behalf of Council in support of TVDSBs request for all 4 London business case submissions included in their 2023/24 accommodation plan. That the letter addresses the pressing needs for approval on the West London and Southwest London schools in order to option school blocks set to expire in the near term.

A unified community message is needed to meet our ambitious housing targets and growth needs while providing quality education in right sized educational spaces. We must act now to ensure lands are available for new schools in our community.

Sincerely,

Councillor Corrine Rahman,
Ward 7

Councillor Anna Hopkins,
Ward 9

(letter from TVDSB included below)



Chair of the Board:

Beth Mai

Trustees:

Carol Antone

Dave Cripps

Leeanne Hopkins

Marianne Larsen

Beth Mai

Sherri Moore

Arlene Morell

Leroy Osbourne

Lori-Ann Pizzolato

Sheri Polhill

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Christian Sachs

Bruce Smith

Student Trustees:

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March 14, 2024

Hon. Stephen Lecce

Minister of Education

5th Flr, 438 University Ave.

Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Via email: minister.edu@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Lecce,

I am writing about capital project concerns shared during the Minister's Teleconference in February.

Please find attached documents to support the needs expressed during that call. I would like to draw your attention to two 2023-2024 Capital Priorities Program requests:

- A new school for West London with an option period expiring on September 3, 2024,
- A new school in Southwest London with an option period with the City of London expiring on March 29, 2025.

TVDSB does not have access to alternative sites within the City of London for these projects at this time.

As you are aware, TVDSB serves one of Canada's fastest-growing areas. The City of London has set an ambitious housing target to address rising populations. This growth requires the timely construction of schools to serve new London families.

The availability of suitable land for these essential projects is limited. Lands currently held for school development will be at risk of being repurposed unless we act soon. The Board appreciates your ongoing dedication to enhancing capital submission timelines and approvals.

Once again, thank you for considering this pressing issue. TVDSB looks forward to working with you to safeguard lands earmarked for much-needed new schools.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Beth Mai".

Beth Mai

Chair of the Board

Thames Valley District School Board

cc: Mark Fisher, Director Fisher
Trustees, and Student Trustees
City of London Mayor, and City Councillors
Local Members of Parliament