

**From:** Jessica Albert

**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2021 11:38 AM

**To:** PEC <pec@london.ca>

**Cc:** Squire, Phil <psquire@london.ca>; Lehman, Steve <slehman@london.ca>; Hopkins, Anna <ahopkins@london.ca>; Lewis, Shawn <slewis@london.ca>; Hillier, Steven <shillier@london.ca>; Morgan, Josh <joshmorgan@london.ca>

**Subject:** New School for Northwest London

Good Morning,

I would like to take a moment of your time to discuss the rapidly growing problem occurring at Sir Arthur Currie Elementary School. I would appreciate if this email could be read at the council meeting when the decision about a new school is discussed.

When Sir Arthur Currie was initially opened, it was a source of pride for the community - a beautiful new school full of promise and opportunity. Over the course of only a few years, this same school has become a source of disdain and frustration. The school grounds, which should be providing ample play areas and outdoor learning spaces, are now overrun with portables. It is hard to feel as if you are in a natural play area, when you are surrounded by container box looking classrooms. It is only the fall, and already I am hearing about students choosing to "hold it" and not go to the bathroom until recess, as they are in portables that would require them to walk around a parking lot. Beyond the obvious concerns of kids not going to the bathroom when needed, this is an unnecessary layer of anxiety to put onto the youngest members of our community.

I am sure you will hear from many parents about all of the reasons why a new school is needed as soon as possible. I would like to address the impact this overpopulation is having on the Family Centre. When my first child was born, we spent a great deal of time at the Family Centre Fox Hollow. We attended playgroups at least one-two times a week and benefitted from the programs and services offered there. I am currently on maternity leave with my second child. Covid has already greatly impacted my experience, but the overpopulation of Sir Arthur Currie has added parking enforcement to any playgroups at the Family Centre. Now, play groups can only run while there is someone available to stand outside and provide signage for parking and ensure only families for the family centre are there. The individuals running the programs at the family centre should be able to focus on programming and connections with the community, and not have to worry about going outside to enforce parking. As we get closer to winter, the alternative option of parking at Fox Hollow park and walking over is less appealing given the difficulty of pushing a stroller through snow and the congestion of strollers that would ensue in the entrance.

The overpopulation is impacting not only the school community, but the community at large in terms of access to the family centre. The Northwest corner of the city is growing swiftly. We need to embrace this growth. The developers and school board have come together with Josh Morgan to provide a possible solution. I implore you to accept this solution so that our community can breathe a sigh of relief with a solution on the horizon.

Sincerely,

Jessica Albert