

Dear Members of the PEC Committee,

London City Council

I am writing to you as a resident of Fox Hollow Community and a parent and school council member at Sir Arthur Currie public school in Northwest London.

I would first like to say that our school is a great school and they have been doing their best. However, it is obvious that the school numbers have way outgrown the school in a very short period of time. Having approximately double the students than the school was built for means an excessive number of portables (especially for a very new school) and predictable problems, with such things as bathrooms, transportation and parking and use of common spaces.

I am writing in support of ward 7 city councillor and deputy mayor, Josh Morgan's proposal to expedite the building of a new school in our area, (south of Sunningdale/east of Hyde Park, within the urban growth boundaries currently in place) despite the fact that I, personally, have mixed feelings about the continued urban growth and the compromise that would be required. (speeding up the residential building north of Sunningdale)

In general, my feeling is that decisions need to be made with people, community and the environment in mind, ahead of economic reasons.

Going forward, I believe there could definitely be improvements with the planning and decision making around development and infrastructure in the City of London, rather than continuing sprawl and indefinite growth, as well as the way decisions are made about schools when new building is approved. (at the municipal and provincial levels) Schools and childcare should be a top priority in community planning and not what could be perceived as an afterthought.

All levels of government could stand to be more proactive, rather than reactive. Things do not have to be done a certain way because they've "always been done that way". As stewards of the land, there is likely much more room for consultation with Indigenous leaders, along with continued and meaningful consultation with community members.

It is understandable that these types of decisions are difficult and can never please all. It is a balance between short term needs and long term planning, and I certainly do not have all the answers, nor am I an expert in city planning. I thank Josh for demonstrating that it is possible to be a politician with heart and transparency, that is not just concerned with being re-elected, but in fulfilling his roles to the best of his ability and actively considering feedback from the community. I am also proud to see engagement from our school community and am confident that the PEC committee of the London City Council will give this matter the important (and urgent) consideration it requires.

Best,

Sara B. Johnson

CC: Minister of Education, Ontario, Peggy Sattler (MPP, London West), TVDSB Ward 7 Trustees Joyce Bennett and Jake Skinner and Director of Education, Mark Fisher