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**RE: Community Schools Alliance**

Dear Municipal Colleagues:

On behalf of the founding Executive Committee of the Community Schools Alliance, I am pleased to provide you with the attached resolution and fact sheet.

As a recent AMO president, I have had the opportunity to travel the province and listen to the concerns of Ontario's municipalities. During my travels, I have heard many concerns about the accommodation review committee (ARC) process which was developed by the province to determine which schools in a municipality stay open, which ones get closed and where new schools will be located. In response to these common concerns, the Community Schools Alliance was established.

As municipal leaders, we believe our community schools are vital pieces of our public infrastructure; our schools are as important to our communities as the municipal infrastructure for water, transportation and recreation that we build and maintain. Clearly we would not allow our municipal water systems to be taken away without strong public input into the decision making process. Likewise, we believe municipalities, parents and students should have a strong voice at the table where school accommodation decisions are made. This is especially true considering there are 100 schools in Ontario currently undergoing accommodation reviews and 146 schools closing or recommended to be closed.

While the challenge may be complex, our goal is simple. We are asking the Minister to impose a "smart moratorium". The goal of the "smart moratorium" is to provide time for the Ministry, school boards and municipalities to work together to develop policies addressing issues such as planning for declining enrolments, a mutually agreed upon Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) process, a review of funding to rural and small community schools and establishing a working relationship between municipalities and school boards that provides transparency and accountability.

I invite you to assist us with this challenge by encouraging your council to review the attached material and vote in favour of passing the resolution of support.

As well, the Community Schools Alliance has invited Ontario Education Minister Kathleen Wynne to address our inaugural meeting. Please encourage your colleagues to attend this meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:45 PM – 5:30 PM in the Governor General I room - 4th floor, Westin Hotel during the AMO conference in Ottawa.

Yours truly,

Doug Reycraft  
Chair, Community Schools Alliance