



*Doug Reycraft*  
Chair, Community Schools Alliance  
399 Ridout Street North, London, Ontario N6A 2P1  
519-287-2015  
[reycraft@sympatico.ca](mailto:reycraft@sympatico.ca)  
[www.communityschoolsalliance.ca](http://www.communityschoolsalliance.ca)

Monday, October 5, 2009

**RE: MPP Letter in Support of a “Smart Moratorium” on School Closures**

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Community Schools Alliance, I am writing to encourage you to write to your MPP in support of a “Smart Moratorium” on school closures.

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 is transparent and accountable.

During the AMO Conference, a standing room only crowd of over 200 Community Schools Alliance Inaugural Meeting attendees sent a strong message to Minister Wynne that we believe our community schools are vital pieces of our public infrastructure that we can not afford to lose. For many in the room, the inaugural meeting provided the opportunity to voice their frustration with the accommodation review process and to discuss the impact that this flawed process will have on their community.

We took our request for a “smart moratorium” directly to Education Minister Wynne during a recent meeting. In response to our request, the Minister provided us with a draft policy entitled “Encouraging Facility Partnerships”. While this policy is a first step in addressing some of our concerns, it only begins to address our collective goal of protecting our vital public infrastructure.

Therefore, we need to take further action to convince the Minister and her colleagues that a “smart moratorium” on disputed school closures is required immediately. To assist us in this effort, I encourage you and your municipality to review the attached draft letter to your MPP and to create your own letter in support of a “smart moratorium”.

I thank you for your attention to this request and if you would like to learn more about the Community Schools Alliance please visit our website at [www.communityschoolsalliance.ca](http://www.communityschoolsalliance.ca).

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Reycraft".

Doug Reycraft  
Chair, Community Schools Alliance