



Doug Reycraft

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Hon. Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Education
Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street,
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Tuesday, July 07, 2009

RE: Community Schools Alliance Meeting

Dear Minister Wynne,

I am writing today on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Community Schools Alliance to invite you to speak at our inaugural meeting in Ottawa on August 17th, 2009 at 4:45PM.

The Community Schools Alliance has been formed by Ontario municipalities to address the challenges associated with the process school boards use to determine which schools in a municipality stay open, which ones get closed and where new schools will be located. Across Ontario, municipalities are concerned about the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) process and the impact this flawed process has on the socio-economic fabric of our communities.

The Community Schools Alliance believes a better system is needed to address the educational facility needs in Ontario's communities. A better system should ensure that school boards and municipal councils work together on decisions regarding education infrastructure. A better system should provide greater accountability for school board decisions. A better system should be developed through a review of the governance model for educational decisions which must include an appeal process of accommodation decisions. Most importantly, a better system should respect and value the input of students, parents, the community and municipality in the ARC process.

To address these issues, we are bringing our municipal colleagues from across Ontario together to call for a “smart moratorium” on school closings. There are a number of challenges associated with the current process and the only way we can effectively deal with these issues is to put disputed school closures on hold until these challenges are resolved.

During our meeting in Ottawa, the Community Schools Alliance would like to discuss our “smart moratorium” concept with you and at the same time provide you with our vision for how we can efficiently and effectively address the concerns our alliance has with the accommodation review process so that we can move forward together with the renewal of our educational infrastructure.

I think it is very important that you hear what the municipalities across Ontario are saying about this process and therefore, I will ensure that you are provided with access to our website, Facebook group, and press releases, as we move forward with this campaign to bring municipalities and school boards together.

The Community Schools Alliance looks forward to your attendance at our meeting in Ottawa and if you have any questions in regard to this speaking opportunity, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Reycraft". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Doug Reycraft
Chair, Community Schools Alliance