

**July 11, 2018**

**To: All trustee groups, chairs and directors of education, teacher federations, principal and vice principal groups, parent organizations, child care stakeholder groups**

Dear colleagues,

I want to begin by expressing how honoured I am to have been appointed to the very important role of Minister of Education by Premier Ford.

You will find I work tirelessly to ensure student success and a safe teaching environment is our number one priority. I look forward to working together to get Ontario students on the right track to success. Educating Ontario's children is one of the most important jobs in the province, and I look forward to fulfilling this important mandate. I also look forward to making progress on issues related to child care and the early years.

One of the driving principles of our government is respecting parents and respecting taxpayers. Ontario families have been making their voices heard on certain key issues, and we will be taking immediate steps to restore their confidence in our great province's future. To support this, our government will be reviewing the child care and education systems over the coming months, and some of our key priorities will include:

- **Child care** – Giving parents a break with a 75% refundable tax credit for child care costs.
- **Math** – Restore proven methods of teaching the fundamentals to ensure student success. Math will also become mandatory in teachers' college programs.
- **Health** – Restore the previous sex-ed component of the curriculum until we can implement a new one that is age appropriate and based on extensive consultation with parents.
- **School closures** – Maintain the current school closures moratorium until we complete a full review of the school closure process.
- **Standardized testing** – Review the current EQAO process.
- **Autism funding** – Invest an additional \$38 million in supports for all children with autism, above and beyond what is already in place.

I can assure you that help is on the way. We will be working hard to help better prepare our kids for the challenges of work and life.

Ontarians have told us that we must do better with respect to student achievement; we must respect parents and educators; and together ensure that our students have the skills they need to succeed.

I am looking forward to working together with you in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Lisa Thompson  
Minister of Education