

**Ministry of Education**

Minister

Mowat Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

Édifice Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



January 30, 2018

Dear Trustees,

I would like to start by thanking each and every one of you for your hard work, commitment and passion to educate our children. I also want to thank you for all that you do, day in and day out, to create strong learning environments that put our children on a path to success. I am very honoured to serve the people of Ontario as the Minister of Education, in addition to remaining the Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care.

I am proud to see how tirelessly each and every one of our partners is working to ensure that all Ontario students can achieve their full potential. As a mother, I certainly understand the challenges of raising and educating children in our modern world.

As the new Minister of Education, I look forward to continuing our important work together — with our many partners across the province — to support a full continuum of learning for children, from birth to adulthood. And I am committed to our government's goal of making sure all children, teachers and staff have the supports and resources they need to succeed in the classroom and in the world.

Over the past few years, our government has engaged across the province, both inside and outside the education system. Time and again, we've heard that student achievement is inextricably linked to well-being and equity. And time and again, we've heard that we need to do more to ensure that our graduates are not just equipped for the workforce, but are ready to contribute as compassionate, thoughtful, resilient citizens. This feedback continues to inform our collective vision for public education.

As trustees' associations, you play a vital role in shaping how this collective vision is realized. I look forward to working with you to support school and system leaders, including directors and trustees, to ensure continued progress on embedding student achievement, well-being and equity at the core of everything we do, while ensuring that our work together is coherent and appropriately paced. And with the release of Ontario's Education Equity Action Plan in the Fall, we will continue to support ongoing professional development for trustees. I value the importance of the local autonomy of our school boards and I am committed to continue to work with you to provide the flexible supports needed to make a difference for your students.

Without question, this is an exciting time for the early years, kindergarten to Grade 12 and beyond. I want to thank you for all that you do. With your help, the graduation rate has reached a historic level, and our publicly funded education system continues to be among the best in the world. Our mutual commitment to child care and the early years has helped more children access affordable, quality and responsive licensed child care.

As Ontarians, we celebrate and embrace our diversity; it makes us a stronger society. Together, we are helping to create a publicly funded education system that will be one of most inclusive and accepting in the world.

These and other milestones are a testament to the hard work and collaboration of educators, staff, leaders, parents, students, communities and other partners. I look forward to continuing our commitment to collaborative professionalism, which will help ensure that our children, students and adult learners get the tools, knowledge, and skills they need to succeed, now and in the future.

Thank you for your passion and dedication to ensuring our children get the best possible start in life. You have my commitment to work with you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Indira Naidoo-Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Indira Naidoo-Harris  
Minister of Education  
Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care