

**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



October 2, 2017

Dear Chairs,

Ontario recognizes that improving learning environments for our students is one of the best decisions we can make. Improving school facilities is not only a key part of my mandate, but will also support Ontario's renewed vision for education. This demonstrates our government's commitment towards maintaining confidence in Ontario's public education system.

As you are aware, multiple ministries have a role to play in ensuring that children can learn in safe and healthy environments. For example, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) protects water so that children can access safe drinking water when at school or in child care centres. In order to further protect children from lead in drinking water, the MOECC amended [Ontario Regulation 243/07 \(Schools, Private Schools and Child Care Centres\)](#) to update lead sampling, corrective action and flushing requirements.

As part of the government's commitment to transparency, the MOECC is also planning to release expanded drinking water data, such as adverse water quality incidents, test result data and inspections for each of the province's facilities in the near future. Ninety-eight per cent of flushed water did not exceed levels set by MOECC. As you are aware, MOECC has a notification process in place with the associated local Medical Officer of Health should there be a lead exceedance through water sampling in a child care centre or school.

I know that many boards already have proactive communications policies for parents and guardians when facilities are identified with lead exceedances. I am asking the education sector to check relevant policies so parents and guardians are informed in a timely manner of any lead exceedance detected in their school or child care centre. Parents should also understand the steps that have been, and will be, taken to make certain the exceedance is resolved and that the water is safe to drink. We encourage you to share resources developed by MOECC with parents and the broader school community. MOECC has also shared a fact sheet with school boards and child care centres, which has been attached to this email for your reference.

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I would like to thank you for the efforts you make so children are able to learn in safe school environments.

Since 2013, the province has made significant investments toward school repair and renewal. To date, almost \$10 billion has been allocated to make schools better places to learn and ensure major repair and replacement work can be undertaken, including the replacement of plumbing systems and fixtures.

Thank you for your collaboration in providing safe and healthy learning environments for our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH', written in a cursive style.

Mitzie Hunter, MBA  
Minister