



**ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION**

Leading Education's Advocates

Ontario Public School Boards' Association
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Cathy Abraham
President

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Executive Director

May 22, 2019

Mr. John Tory
Mayor of the City of Toronto

Dear Mayor,

I am writing to you and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) regarding the government's current transportation safety legislation, Bill 107, The Getting Ontario Moving Act, 2019 and in particular, the proposed changes under Schedule 1 – Amendments to the Highway Traffic Act (HTA). The legislation intends to allow municipalities to impose fines on those drivers who drive past school buses with their stop-arms out (equipped with a camera) and drivers who are speeding near schools. We understand that regulations will determine the allowance of footage from cameras to be used in court as evidence.

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPBSA) has always supported measures that increase and enhance the safety of our students, parents, school staff and community members. Some of our previous commentary around this particular issue was included in our 2017 submission for Bill 65, Safer School Zones Act and its allowance of the use of photo radar in school and community safety zones by municipalities. We encouraged local discussions between municipalities and school boards in this neighbourhood issue.

For Bill 107, we again are fully supportive of changes that make our communities safer. The proposed legislation has been discussed recently with trustees who are members of our Policy Development Work Team and at our May Board of Directors meeting. Although we are not involved in the setting or collection of monetary fines for speeding drivers, our members have suggested there be a coordinated, targeted community campaign about the introduction of a new/increased set of fines. We also recommend that any monies collected from these fines be shared with school boards for student/school bus safety initiatives, or that the monies are used by the municipality for the same purpose.

As locally elected municipal leaders we are joined in our commitment to our communities. We look forward to an ongoing discussion with your staff on the implementation of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Cathy Abraham, President

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association represents public district school boards and public school authorities across Ontario, which together serve more than 1.3 million public elementary and secondary students. The Association advocates on behalf of the best interests and needs of the public school system in Ontario. OPSBA believes that the role of public education is to provide universally accessible education opportunities for all students regardless of their ethnic, racial or cultural backgrounds, social or economic status, individual exceptionality, or religious affiliation.

cc. Chris Murray, City Manager