

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



August 10, 2015

Dear Chair,

I am writing to advise you that today the Premier's Community Hub Framework Advisory Group – chaired by Karen Pitre, special advisor to Premier Wynne on community hubs – issued its report entitled *Community Hubs in Ontario: A Strategic Framework and Action Plan*. The report can be found at: www.ontario.ca/communityhubs

We all know that schools can play an important role as a hub for programs and services that benefit the broader community. Our government fully supports integrated service delivery through community hubs. In fact, there are more than 2,500 licensed child care programs offered in schools across Ontario. However, we know that more can be done to remove some of the barriers to creating community hubs in schools.

As the advisory group's report notes, our government has been encouraging school boards to "right size" their space, given changing demographics and to ensure quality education programs. We remain committed to promoting efficient use of public assets, improved collaboration between school boards, municipalities, and community partners and enhanced learning opportunities, so that our students continue to achieve excellence. Accordingly, school boards should continue to diligently review their short and long-term school needs in consultation with their communities, which may still result in school consolidations or closures.

The report's strategic framework and action plan outlines specific recommendations to help Ontario review provincial policies and develop a framework to adapt existing public properties to become community hubs. Our government is supportive of the advisory group's recommendations and my ministry will work with other government ministries, school boards, municipalities, and community partners, to implement them. We will also consult with our education partners and other stakeholders on these recommendations beginning in September. Details about the consultations will be provided in the near future.

I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the helpful advice and support that your board and colleagues across Ontario provided to the advisory group. We are committed to engaging with our partners to build on the strength of our partnerships and further improve community access to schools to support the communities they serve, as well as our vision for Ontario as the best place to work, live and raise a family.

I look forward to continuing to work together.

Sincerely,

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

Liz Sandals
Minister

- c: Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario
Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association
Ontario Public School Boards' Association.