

Dear Members of the Progressive Conservative Government Caucus,

Further to my previous letter outlining the Ontario Public School Boards' Association's (OPSBA) concerns with Bill 33, Supporting Children and Students Act, I am writing again as the government prepares to move forward with this legislation.

OPSBA and its members remain deeply concerned by what we view as an erosion of local democracy. The government's decision to expedite Bill 33 and bypass the standard legislative process, eliminating the opportunity for public input through committee hearings at Queen's Park, is both disheartening and contrary to the principles of openness and accountability that underpin good governance.

It is particularly concerning that a bill that seeks to remove decision making power from cabinet and give it solely to the Minster of Education would not be given the opportunity to be discussed by the public at a committee of the legislature.

OPSBA has consistently demonstrated a willingness to work collaboratively with the government and has maintained constructive relationships with the past four Ministers of Education since 2018. It is unfortunate that, under the current process, our ability to contribute that perspective has been limited.

We respectfully urge all Members of the Government Caucus to share these concerns with your caucus colleagues and vote against the time allocation motion in order to allow Bill 33 to proceed through full public committee hearings.

In lieu of an opportunity to present publicly or provide input through the normal legislative process, OPSBA will again be sharing its full submission directly with Minister Calandra.

Taking this step would reaffirm your commitment to transparency, accountability, and the democratic process that underpins strong local governance.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Woodcock

President

Ontario Public School Boards' Association

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