



BOWMORE SCHOOL COUNCIL

April 9th, 2019

Hon. Lisa M. Thompson, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
Mowat Block, 22nd Floor
900 Bay St., Toronto, ON,
M7A 1L2
lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister,

We, the Bowmore School Advisory Council, are writing to express our concern regarding the changes to public education being proposed by your government. You have spoken often about the need for a Parents' Bill of Rights in Ontario's public education system, but we also believe that we, the parents and politicians, have collective responsibilities to our public education system. As a School Council, our purpose is:

through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. O. Reg. 612/00, s. 2 (1)."
Education Act Ontario Regulation 612/00

Your government ran on the platform 'For The People'. However, by targeting public education to balance the budget, you have shown us that young people are not included in the 'people' for whom your government claims to be working. Your education plan is not putting students first.

As parents we support high-quality, fully-funded and equitable public education, including:

- A fully-funded public education system that includes low class caps, excellent needs-support, no mandatory e-learning, and well-maintained buildings.
- Guaranteed full-day kindergarten with a teacher and ECE.
- Funding that provides equitable enrichment opportunities across the system and reduces the burden on school-based fundraising.
- An inclusive curriculum and respect for the diversity of our students and educators.

The systems we need require more, not less, funding. We will press your government on these issues as part of our responsibility to hold the education system accountable. We will join voices with neighbouring schools to build strong support for the excellent education all students in Ontario need.

Sincerely,

Lyndsey Camps and Andrea Maugham

Bowmore School Council Co-chairs, on behalf of the Bowmore School Council

CC to Dr. John Malloy, Director of Education, Toronto District School Board

Trustee Robin Pilkey, Chair, Toronto District School Board

Trustee Michelle Aarts, Toronto District School Board

Rima Berns McGowan MPP, Beaches-East York

Marit Stiles MPP, Critic, Education

West End Parents for Public Education

Isabel Teotonio, Education Reporter, Toronto Star

Caroline Alphonso, Education Reporter, The Globe and Mail