



May 3, 2019

Dear SEAC Chair Colleagues,

I am writing on behalf of the Special-Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) to express our support of the attached letter to the Ministers of Education and Children, Community and Social Services. The letter shares our concerns regarding the changes to the Ontario Autism Program.

We are troubled by the impact these changes will have on both families and students of the OCDSB and across the province. Special Education in Ontario is already underfunded, and changes such as these will only increase the burden placed on Ontario school boards. We are grateful for the opportunity for further consultation and the exploration of a shared solution, and suggest that other SEAC's offer their expertise and understanding to the continued dialogue.

We ask that you consider working with your Board of Trustees on a unified response and be an active participant and voice in the Ministries continued consultations. We hope this is the start of a collaborative effort to ensure that students with autism have the required resources to be successful in our classrooms.

Sincerely,

Rob Kirwan, Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee
Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

cc: Chairs, District School Board Special Education Advisory Committees

Attachment: Letter from Chair Lynn Scott