

May 21, 2019

Hon. Lisa M. Thompson
Minister of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Hon. Lisa M. Thompson,

On behalf of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board, we are writing you today to express our concerns regarding the recent changes to the provincial funding model for Autism services and the impact it will have on children, families and school boards.

We are in support of the concerns expressed in the letter by Durham Catholic District School Board on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 and similarly feel there is a lack of clarity around the process of students returning to our school systems and presenting a difficulty to our Special Education/Student Services Departments. We also feel that our board has no clear understanding of which students will be returning or when, nor has there been any indication from you or the Ministry of Education as to what you promised increased support to school systems will look like. Additionally, we are asking for clarification on what the funding will look like going forward into September 2019 as the board, families and all concerned are unable to develop a plan to support these students who generally require intensive support and comprehensive planning around transitions.

We strongly request that the Ministry of Education informs us immediately as to the funding and transitional support that they are going to provide so that the staff at the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board can provide a safe and accepting environment to meet the needs of all of these students.

Thank you and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Christine Dragojlovich
Co-Chair
Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board
Special Education Advisory Committee

C: Mike McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary BHNCDSB
Chairs of Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees

