



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

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November 14, 2016

**TO:** Chairpersons and Directors of Education  
- All Catholic District School Boards

**FROM:** Stephen Andrews, Director of Legislative and Political Affairs

**SUBJECT: Fall Economic Statement**

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On Monday November 14, the Minister of Finance delivered his Fall Economic Statement. The statement and background documents highlight a number of programs and investments the government has made over the course of 2016. The overall theme is “building Ontario up for everyone”, and the focus is on those investments and policy decisions that impact the cost of living in Ontario. For example, the Minister reiterated the commitment to remove the HST on residential electricity bills as of January 1, 2017. The Economic Statement also forecasts a balanced budget by 2017-2018.

In terms of specific commitments impacting school boards, the Minister of Finance announced:

- Investments of \$65.5 million in 2016-2017 to support the creation of roughly 3,400 new licensed child care spaces. This is the first step in the government’s plan to create 100,000 new spaces by 2022.
- Providing \$12 billion over the next ten years in the education sector to build infrastructure and create contemporary learning environments for students.

The Statement also outlines a number of specific commitments that have been made in 2016 that include:

- Investing \$60 million to implement a **renewed math strategy**, which includes 60 dedicated minutes per day of math learning time in Grades 1 to 8.
- An additional **\$1.1 billion** over two school years to improve existing school infrastructure across Ontario.
- The creation of 29 new schools across Ontario.

For further information, please see the attached background document on “Helping Early Learners, Students and Workers” and the Minister’s speech to the Ontario Legislature.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Andrews at [sandrews@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:sandrews@ocsta.on.ca)

*Attachment*