



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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May 1, 2018

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Beverley Eckensweiler, President

SUBJECT: **Final Revisions to the Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline and Community Planning and Partnership Guideline Consultations**

As you are aware, the Ministry of Education has been consulting on the Pupil Accommodation Review (PARG) process and revisions to the Community Planning and Partnership Guideline (CPPG) over the past several months. This has included a discussion paper to solicit feedback from education stakeholders as well as a working group of stakeholders, including OCSTA Past President Pat Daly, to review and discuss potential revisions to the PARG and CPPG.

On Friday April 27, the Ministry released its final PARG along with a memorandum outlining a number of additional initiatives in respect of capital and accommodation planning.

PARG Guidelines

The final PARG includes the following revisions (see attached final PARG)

- A minimum of three public meetings with extended timelines for a standard pupil accommodation review to review the Initial Staff Report;
- Extension of the first public meeting from 30 to 40 days after the announcement of PAR;
- Requiring the municipal or community meeting take place prior to the first public meeting;
- Limits on the use of Modified PAR's;
- New information requirements for the initial staff report—impact on student programming, well-being, school board resources and the local economy (only if one school that is eligible to receive support from the Rural and Northern Education Fund is included in the PAR);
- Ministry approved template to structure the Initial Staff Report and an economic impact assessment template to measure the local economic impact of a PAR;
- Promotion of community input in the PAR process and the inclusion of student concerns both at the secondary and elementary level;
- Streamlining the administrative review process by allowing e-signatures;

- Development of various ministry supports.
- **Timing:** the ministry intends that these templates and supporting documents will be available before the fall of 2018.

Integrated Capital and Community Planning

Responding to the input of the PARG/CPPG working group, the ministry is announcing a new community planning table that reviews additional issues in respect of capital and community planning for boards. The “**Voluntary Integrated Planning and Partnership Initiative**” will provide flexible support to local partners that want to enhance their capacity for integrated capital and community planning. The objective of this initiative is to generate best practices for integrated planning in support of the CCPG process.

The Ministry is also offering additional capital support to boards working with community partners on joint use facilities with \$40,000 to assist with project planning.

Urban Education Support Initiative

To support boards with specific challenges related to growth and intensification, the Ministry is launching two-year stakeholder processes:

- **Urban Student Accommodation Engagement:** in the fall of 2018 the ministry will move forward on supports for PARs in urban areas experiencing rapid growth and intensification, including a review of education development charges;
- **Land Priorities Enhancement:** the ministry will increase funding in its Land Priorities program from \$60 million to \$100 million for 2018-2019. This will support land acquisition for boards.

Next Steps for CPPG

Over the course of 2018-2019 the ministry will update CPPG to enhance planning and reporting practices. In the interim, boards should continue to use the existing guideline in their annual community planning meetings.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Stephen Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca.

Attachments