



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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May 3, 2019

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Stephen Andrews, Director of Legislative and Political Affairs

SUBJECT: **Amendments to the *Education Act* and Education Development Charges**

On May 3, 2019 the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing introduced the *More Choice, More Homes Act, 2019* (Bill 108) that proposes to streamline various regulations in respect of land development for residential, institutional and commercial property. The overall objective of the Bill is to increase the supply of affordable housing across the province. Details of the announcement can be found at:

<https://news.ontario.ca/mma/en/2019/05/comprehensive-legislation-would-help-give-people-of-ontario-more-homes-more-choice.html>.

Schedule 4 of the Bill proposes several amendments to the *Education Act* related to education development charges (EDCs). This follows the government's consultation on housing strategy and the review of the EDC policy framework.

Key proposed amendments to the *Education Act* that impact EDCs include:

- Amend section 195 of the *Education Act* to require a school board to give notice to the Minister if it plans to acquire or expropriate land and to allow the Minister to reject the board's plans.
- Amendments with respect to education development charges. Section 257.53.1 is added to the Act to provide for alternative projects that, if requested by a board and approved by the Minister, would allow the allocation of revenue from education development charge by-laws for projects that would address the needs of the board for pupil accommodation and would reduce the cost of acquiring land.
- Section 257.53.2 is added to the Act to provide for localized education development agreements that, if entered into between a board and an owner of land, would allow the owner to provide a lease, real property or other prescribed benefit to be used by the board to provide pupil accommodation in exchange for the board agreeing not to impose education development charges against the land.

The bill will now enter the legislative process for second reading and referral to a Standing Committee of the Legislature for stakeholder input. The bill will likely pass into law by early June prior to the end of the current legislative session.

OCSTA Next Steps

OCSTA will carefully monitor the legislative process and make a formal submission on the proposed amendments to the *Education Act*. In addition, OCSTA will liaise with the Ministry of Education to discuss consultations on regulatory and guideline development in respect of EDCs.

If you have any questions please contact Steve Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca or Policy Advisor Finance Dan Duszczyzyn at dduszczyzyn@ocsta.on.ca.