



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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August 6, 2019

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Beverley Eckensweiler, President

SUBJECT: **Climate Action Incentive Fund for Schools--UPDATE**

Further to the memorandum from June 27, 2019 regarding the status of the federal Climate Action Incentive Fund for Schools, OCSTA has been informed that the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has written to the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change to confirm that Ontario will distribute program funds to Ontario school boards.

In a letter date July 17, 2019 Ontario's Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks committed to "redistribute these funds back to Ontario school boards, subject to any necessary internal approvals" (Attached).

Next Steps:

The Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks will now work with their federal counterparts to develop the mechanisms to enable the flow of funds from pricing carbon to Ontario school boards.

OCSTA will continue to monitor this issue and provide boards with updates on any outcome and potential process for applying for funds.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca.

Attachment

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des
Parcs

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

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JUL 17 2019

357-2019-1639

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, PC, MP
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Government of Canada
Email: ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca

Dear Minister McKenna:

Thank you for your letter regarding support for energy efficiency in Ontario schools.

I am writing to confirm that our government agrees in principle to redistributing these funds back to Ontario school boards, subject to any necessary internal approvals. I have directed officials from my Ministry to follow up with ECCC officials on this matter.

That said, it is our position that the funds generated by the carbon tax should never have been taken from Ontario's schools, families and businesses in the first place.

In addition to putting jobs and businesses at risks and costing an average family \$648 in 2022, the federal carbon tax is impacting our province's essential services, like hospitals, colleges, universities and school boards. In fact, the carbon tax will impact Ontario's school boards by increasing their upfront annual heating costs by approximately \$13.3 million in 2019-20, soaring to \$33.2 million in 2022-23.

As you know, the Ontario government is committed to standing up for the people and to addressing our environmental challenges, including climate change, in a way that balances a healthy environment with a healthy economy. We strongly believe that provinces should be able to develop their own solutions to addressing climate change – ones that consider their specific priorities, challenges and opportunities.

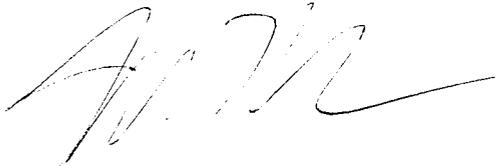
This approach is reflected in our Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan which commits to reducing our emissions to 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, a target that aligns with the federal government's Paris commitments, without imposing a carbon tax on the people and institutions of Ontario. Through the efforts of individuals and industry, Ontario is already most of the way to this target, with the province's emissions down 22 per cent since 2005.

As committed to in our Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan, our government has finalized a new emissions performance standards regulation that will ensure large industrial polluters are accountable for their greenhouse gas emissions.

This made-in-Ontario solution is an alternative to the federal output-based pricing system. We are committed to working with your government to accept our program so that we can have these standards in place in time to capture the 2019 emissions year and ensure that Ontario industry is not doubly regulated.

We look forward to working with you on these various items.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Yurek', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Yurek
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks