



Kathy Lawson/Frances
09/05/2016 11:47 AM

To
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: An email from Premier Kathleen Wynne / Un courriel de la première ministre Kathleen Wynne



Premier of Ontario | Première ministre de l'Ontario
<Premier@ontario.ca>
06/05/2016 03:44 PM

To
cc "Sandals, Liz (EDU)" <Liz.Sandals@ontario.ca>, "Pitre, Karen (CAB)" <Karen.Pitre@ontario.ca>, "McMeekin, Ted (MAH)" <Ted.McMeekin@ontario.ca>
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[Version française après le texte anglais.]

Today, the Honourable Liz Sandals, Minister of Education, announced investments and regulatory changes to support the use of schools as community hubs.

In August 2015, the Community Hubs Framework Advisory Group, chaired by Special Advisor, Karen Pitre, released *Community Hubs in Ontario: A Strategic Framework and Action Plan* ("Action Plan"), a report with 27 recommendations on how our government can support community hub development. Today's announcement represents the latest in a series of many steps our government has taken towards implementing all of the recommendations.

In response to the Action Plan's recommended short-term strategy for school property and extensive stakeholder consultation, the Ministry of Education has made the following amendments to Ontario Regulation 444/98 – *Disposition of Surplus Real Property* :

- Extend the current surplus school circulation period from 90 days to 180 days, providing listed public entities with 90 days to express interest in the property and an additional 90 days to submit an offer
- Expand the list of public entities to receive notification of surplus school property disposition.

This means that school boards will begin circulating surplus school properties that they are seeking to sell or lease to an expanded list of public entities, including upper-tier and lower-tier municipalities, as well as Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards and others.

These amendments will provide more opportunities for community organizations to purchase or lease surplus school properties in order to allow for continued community use.

The Ministry of Education is also supporting the use of schools as community hubs by investing \$90 million through new capital funding programs that will help schools better serve students, families and communities.

Information regarding the changes to Ontario Regulation 444/98 and the school board disposition process can be found on the following website:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/properties.html>.

For guidance on how your organization can connect with community partners and explore community hub development, I encourage you to contact the Community Hubs Secretariat at Community.Hubs@Ontario.ca.

I believe this initiative represents an important step in supporting the government's objectives of removing barriers to community hub development, coordinating planning opportunities for public assets to serve as hubs, providing integrated service delivery to communities, and respecting the importance of local planning decisions.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the many community organizations and other public sector entities for the feedback received to inform these changes and for their ongoing efforts to better serve Ontarians.

We are committed to continuing to engage collectively with our partners to build on the strengths of our partnerships. This will further improve community access to schools to support the communities they serve, as well as supporting our vision for Ontario as the best place to live, work and raise a family.

I look forward to continuing to work together.

Kathleen Wynne
Premier

c: The Honourable Liz Sandals
 Karen Pitre, Special Advisor on Community Hubs