



"Community Schools Alliance"
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To "Lisa Slomke" <lslomke@fort-frances.com>

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Community Schools Alliance

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www.communityschoolsalliance.ca

An open letter to all elected municipal officials and staff.

The Community Schools Alliance continues to advocate for a closer working relationship between school boards and municipal councils. Both represent the same taxpayers, both **should** regard our schools as critically important components of our public infrastructure and both **should** work together to ensure our communities are well served by those schools.

For several years the Community Schools Alliance has spoken out about changes that are needed to protect our schools and to protest changes that threaten them.

We believe some recent initiatives of the Ontario government are good ones.

- The announcement of the Premier's Advisory Group on Community Hubs (<http://www.ontario.ca/communityhubs>) to develop a framework for adapting existing public assets, including schools, to become community hubs is a step forward.
- Recent changes to the Grant for Student Needs, the 'funding formula' for schools, has been amended to change the qualifications required for schools to be deemed 'isolated' and therefore to qualify for special 'top-up' grants. Unfortunately, top-up grants for non-isolated schools are being phased out.
- A new Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline that encourages the formation of more facility partnerships by ensuring more transparent communications with community organizations has been introduced.

More changes are needed and the Community Schools Alliance is committed to advocating for those changes. To better enable us to do this work, the Community

advocating for those changes. To better enable us to do this work, the Community Schools Alliance has made changes of its own. A new constitution has been adopted (you can see it on our website <http://www.communityschoolsalliance.ca>) and a new executive has been elected. The names of our executive members are listed below.

To be effective with our advocacy, we need research, resources and your support. Please consider becoming a member of the Community Schools Alliance as an organization, as individuals or both. [An application form for membership with a membership fee schedule is available here](#). The initial membership fee will cover the period until August, 2016.

[Please join us !](#)

The greater our numbers , the stronger our voice!

Yours truly,

Doug Reycraft
Chair, Community Schools Alliance

Executive Members

Mayor Alan Barfoot
Georgian Bluffs

Councillor Carol Lowery
Temagami

Councillor James Collard
Niagara-on-the-Lake

Warden Gerry Marshall
Simcoe County

Warden Denis Doyle
Frontenac County

Councillor Don Murray
Huron-Kinloss

Deputy Mayor Patricia Greig
Northern Bruce Peninsula

Councillor Marcus Ryan
Zorra

Mayor Lucy Kloosterhuis
Oliver Paipoonge

Mayor Brian Smith
Wasaga Beach