

March 3, 2022

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
900 Bay Street, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Lecce,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB), I would like to take this opportunity to express our concern regarding the current Education Development Charges (EDCs) within our jurisdiction.

On October 12, 2018, the province modified the legislation that governs EDCs and issued Ontario Regulation 438/18 which amended Ontario Regulation 20/98. The amendment froze EDCs at rates that were in effect on August 31, 2018. On March 29, 2019, the province issued Ontario Regulation 55/19 which further amended Ontario Regulation 20/98. One of the main purposes of this amendment was to partially relax the above noted rate freeze and provide a provisional phase-in of proposed EDC rates. This allowed an annual increase of existing rates by the greater of 5 percent or \$300 for residential development, and the greater of 5 percent or \$0.10 per square foot for non-residential development for the length of the by-law. The proposed EDC rates indicated in the SCDSB's 2018 Background Study were \$3,578 per residential dwelling unit and \$0.97 per square foot of non-residential gross floor area. Under the amended legislation, the SCDSB has and will continue to collect the following relative amounts:

Per residential dwelling unit:

- i. May 27 to October 29, 2019 - \$1,611
- ii. October 30, 2019 to October 29, 2020 - \$1,911
- iii. October 30, 2020 to October 29, 2021 - \$2,211
- iv. October 30, 2021 to October 29, 2022 - \$2,511
- v. October 30, 2022 to October 29, 2023 - \$2,811

Non-residential per square foot:

- i. May 27 to October 29, 2019 - \$0.37
- ii. October 30, 2019 to October 29, 2020 - \$0.39
- iii. October 30, 2020 to October 29, 2021 - \$0.41
- iv. October 30, 2021 to October 29, 2022 - \$0.43
- v. October 30, 2022 to October 29, 2023 - \$0.45

Based on these values, the SCDSB has and will continue to annually collect between 21 percent and 55 percent **less** per residential unit in EDCs than justified in the SCDSB's Ministry of Education approved 2018 Background Study. Similar proportional losses will also be incurred in the collection of non-residential EDCs.

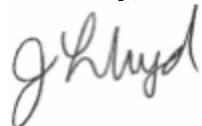
As noted in the 2018 Background Study and evident in the SCDSB's past and recent Ministry of Education approvals for capital funding, Simcoe County continues to experience extensive residential growth. As a result, enrolment pressures will require long range accommodation solutions. Currently, the board has more pupils than available space, and even with the approved new projects, continued investment will be required. The SCDSB's 2018 Background Study projected the need for 36 public school sites over the 15-year analysis term to accommodate this growth, and board staff believe this estimate may in fact be under projecting the actual long-term need.

With the identified needs, increased land values, and increased barriers to site acquisitions and municipal and planning approvals, the SCDSB is concerned that the current restrictions will result in extensive EDC deficits and delays. While the SCDSB acknowledges initiatives taken to address affordable housing, we are firm believers in the concept of growth paying for growth, and we are concerned that these deficits will become unviable and/or passed on to ratepayers. We would also like to point out that municipal and county development charges, which are much larger in monetary scale, have continued to increase unabated in order to provide the necessary services and infrastructure to accommodate current and future growth.

As we prepare for our 2023 EDC by-law renewal process, we respectfully request a review of the EDC restrictions in order to ensure the resources exist to continue accommodating the relatively unprecedented growth experienced and expected to continue in Simcoe County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jodi Lloyd
Chairperson
Simcoe County District School Board

c: Hon. Doug Downey, MPP, Barrie, Springwater, Oro-Medonte
Hon. Jill Dunlop, MPP, Simcoe North
Andrea Khanjin, MPP, Barrie, Innisfil
Jim Wilson, MPP, Simcoe Grey
Hon. Caroline Mulroney, MPP, York-Simcoe
All Simcoe County Municipal Clerks
Board of Trustees, SCDSB
John Dance, Director of Education, SCDSB