



Bluewater District School Board

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June 27, 2019

The Honorable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Bluewater District School Board, we are respectfully asking that you review the findings in the recently released report by the Conference Board of Canada, "The Economic Case for Investing in Education", and seriously reconsider the cuts planned for education in Ontario.

We join the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) in supporting the evidence presented in this report, and in sharing their belief that investment in Ontario's public education system is integral to building a better economy. There are a number of key findings in the research, which indicate that cuts to public education will impact secondary school graduation rates and lead to higher fiscal costs for the provincial government.

The report estimates that each dollar invested in public education generates \$1.30 in total economic impacts to Ontario, while the opposite holds true for every dollar that is taken. Increased investment in public education that lifts graduation rates to 90 percent could generate average fiscal savings of \$16.4 million per year on social assistance, health care, and criminal justice, or total savings of \$3.5 billion over two decades. By comparison, graduation rates that fall to 82.6 percent would result in Ontario spending an additional \$18 million per year on these programs, thus costing \$3.8 billion over 20 years. The findings also reveal that each additional graduate saves the Ontario government an average of \$2,767 per year compared to the annual cost of \$3,128 for each individual who does not complete secondary school.

We strongly encourage you and your government to carefully consider these impacts when it comes to recent and future decisions related to the delivery of public education in our province.

As always, our commitment in Bluewater District School Board remains focused on providing quality education for every student in a safe and caring environment.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jan Johnstone in black ink.

Jan Johnstone
Chair

Handwritten signature of Jane Thomson in black ink.

Jane Thomson
Vice-Chair

cc: Harvey Bischof, President, OSSTF
Betty-Jo Raddin, President, OSSTF District 7 Bluewater
The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
The Honourable Bill Walker, MPP, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
The Honourable Lisa Thompson, MPP, Huron-Bruce
The Honourable Jim Wilson, MPP, Simcoe-Grey

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