

Hon. Lisa M. Thompson, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
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Birch Cliff Public School
1650 Kingston Rd
Scarborough, Ontario
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Dear Minister,

We, the Birch Cliff Public School, Parent Council, are writing to express our concern regarding the changes to public education being proposed by your government. You have spoken often about the need for a Parents' Bill of Rights in Ontario's public education system, but we also believe that we, the parents and politicians, have collective *responsibilities* to our public education system. As a School Council, our purpose is:

through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. O. Reg. 612/00, s. 2 (1)." Education Act
Ontario Regulation 612/00

Your government ran on the platform 'For The People'. However, by targeting public education to balance the budget, you have shown us that young people are not included in the 'people' for whom your government claims to be working.

High-quality, fully-funded and equitable public education is what we demand because it is what our kids deserve. Specifically, we want:

- A fully-funded public education system that includes low class caps, excellent needs-support, no mandatory e-learning, and well-maintained buildings.
- Funding that provides equitable enrichment opportunities across the system and reduces the burden on school-based fundraising.
- An inclusive curriculum and respect for the diversity of our students and educators.

The systems we need require more, not less, funding. We will press your government on these issues as part of our responsibility to hold the education system accountable. We will join voices with neighbouring schools to build strong support for the excellent education all students in Ontario need.

Sincerely,

Birch Cliff Public School Parent Council members.
April 25, 2019

CC: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier; doug.ford@pc.ola.org
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