



**Building your career in  
Ontario's educational system**

OASBO is a member-driven organization, committed to building Ontario's provincially-funded education system through strong and efficient administration.

L'OASBO est un organisme piloté par ses membres et engagé à bâtir le système d'éducation financé par la province de l'Ontario à l'aide d'une administration solide et efficace.

**2022–2023 Board**

**President**

**David Fowler**  
Limestone DSB

**Vice President**

**Nancy Culham**  
Upper Grand DSB

**Past President**

**Chris Demers**  
Waterloo Catholic DSB

**Directors**

**Lisa Cadotte**  
Halton DSB

**Lori Letourneau**  
Conseil scolaire catholique  
Providence (CSCP)

**Scott A. Morrow**  
Simcoe Muskoka Catholic DSB

**Nick Pfeiffer**  
Hastings and Prince Edward DSB

**Lori Steacy**  
Hamilton-Wentworth DSB

**Viraj Trivedi**  
York Catholic DSB

**Executive Director**  
**Gerry Cullen**

November 24, 2022

To: The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
To: The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education

Dear Ministers:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022. The Ontario Association of School Business Officials has 1200 working members with representatives from all publicly funded school boards working as 18 committees each with a specific area of school business. The members are professionals working in the business support areas of our district school boards. The comments below have been prepared by the Planning Committee of OASBO, which is comprised of land use planning professionals from school boards across the province. The letter has been approved by the OASBO Board of Directors.

The Province has identified an aggressive plan to address housing availability and affordability over the next 10 years. Meeting these targets will generate considerable need for high quality public infrastructure, including schools for these new and intensified communities. To respond to this growth, all stakeholders will require a robust and varied toolkit to ensure we are positioned to also accommodate more students in new and innovative schools.

We are writing to extend our support in meeting the government's goals and identify an initial shortlist of tools, reforms, and actions that will serve to expedite the delivery of new pupil places, while ensuring we continue to meet our primary responsibilities of providing quality education to all students. This shortlist includes:

- Predictable and consistent timing for capital priorities funding application windows for new and renovated schools.
- Expanded capital priorities application horizons which reflect timing to bring projects to fruition (i.e., greater than 4 years).
- Capital funding which is continuously indexed to construction costs to ensure that benchmarks keep pace with real-world tendering and construction expenses and to facilitate an expedited RFP and approvals process.
- Revamp temporary accommodation grant calculations to ensure boards are positioned and sufficiently funded to provide needed temporary accommodation to meet expedited growth and added financial supports, such as Education Development Charges (EDC), to ensure safe learning environments in board-owned and leased temporary accommodation (i.e., portables).
- Expanded eligibility of EDC by-laws to pay for growth-related land acquisition, where the entire district/jurisdiction may not currently qualify under existing triggers.



- Expand EDC eligible costs to include broader site preparation needs, temporary accommodation, renewal of alternative projects, podium school construction and operating expenses, amongst others.
- Finalize guidelines or regulations to support the development of Alternative Projects.
- Ideally, remove annual increase caps on EDCs, or move to phased in of total eligible rates over five years, consistent with proposed municipal development charge changes, to ensure boards are positioned to purchase sites when needed to meet expedited pace of growth.
- Prioritize school development approvals to ensure this critical component of public infrastructure is available when communities are constructed and occupied.
- Remove school sites or square footage from minimum density calculations and ensure school sites and facilities are protected from pressure to reduce size by recognizing increasing pressure on school sites to function as community hubs which may increasingly also compensate for lack of other parks and open spaces.

We hope to continue the conversation in coming months to further refine the suggestions made herein and develop a more comprehensive strategy in collaboration with the Province, specifically the Ministries of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Education.

Sincerely,

David Fowler, P.Eng.  
President  
Ontario Association of  
School Business Officials

Gerry Cullen  
Executive Director  
Ontario Association of  
School Business Officials

Cc: OASBO Board of Directors  
Adam McDonald, Planning Committee Chair