



QUEENSWAY TERRACE NORTH

Community Association

April 20, 2025

Dear Trustees of the Ottawa Carleton District School Board,

We are writing to recognize the changes that the OCDSB has made to the original Elementary Program Review for our community, and to reiterate our desire to see certain additional changes be made.

The Queensway Terrace North (QTN) Community Association has a mandate that includes promoting and protecting the interests and quality of life of the residents of the Queensway Terrace North community and monitoring current or proposed legislation and government policies and practices that affect or may affect the community. Severn Ave Public School is the only school within our neighbourhood. The Board of the QTN Community Association wrote to express our concerns with the first draft of the OCDSB Elementary Program Review, and we appreciate the changes to the plans for Severn Ave Public School that better align with the needs of our community in the updated proposal. As with our previous letter, our comments are limited to areas that fall under this mandate; topics such as changes to the alternative school program fall outside of this scope.

The main point that remains unaddressed in the updated proposal is the need for a plan to incorporate the Enhanced English stream into Severn, or providing access to this stream at a school that falls within the boundary of a 15-minute neighbourhood. The City of Ottawa's Official Plan highlights the importance of 15-minute neighbourhoods, which the QTNCA Board endorses as an important component of fostering community, reducing reliance on vehicles, and supporting active means of transportation such as walking and biking. The stated objective of the Elementary Program Review - having more children attend school in their neighbourhood - is in complete alignment with the idea of 15-minute neighbourhoods. The QTNCA Board therefore encourages the inclusion of Enhanced English at Severn, which will allow more local families to attend school in our neighbourhood.

As we recognize that space constraints exist in a small community school, we would be remiss if we did not again highlight the importance of the REKSAP childcare program at Severn, and state that

we encourage the inclusion of Enhanced English at Severn while also ensuring that space for the REKSAP program is retained.

In closing, the QTNCA Board would like to highlight our support for providing Enhanced English and French Immersion programming at Severn Ave Public School, and the overall goal of having children attend school in their community. We understand that program reviews are necessary and that change can be hard. In an area such as QTN, and with small schools such as Severn, this highlights the long-term need to invest capital funding in Severn Ave PS and other area schools to ensure they continue to meet the needs of local communities. In the short term, we encourage the OCDSB to consider modifications to the current proposal that will further support keeping students within their communities. We hope to see these important items reflected in the final version of your program redesign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Vandergrift".

Kathy Vandergrift
QTNCA President

Cc: Dr. Pino Buffone
Director of Education and Secretary to the Board of the OCDSB