

INSTRUCTIONS: APPEAL TO ONTARIO CABINET

MINISTERS

Campaign to End Structural Underfunding & Fund Every Penny of Education Costs

**We are continuing emails, calls, and social media posts until
June 30th!**

#ONFundEveryPenny

This Messaging Toolkit Contains:

- List of Cabinet Ministers indirectly related to education
- Ministry contact information
- **Sample emails.** NOTE: Please take the time to personalize and sign these messages because uniform messages will be filtered out by spam software
- **Sample calling script.**
- Please feel free to contact as many ministers as you like, as frequently as you like.
- Don't feel pressured to contact all of them - focus on what you're passionate about.
- Calling is preferable to email but both are very good.
- **Please make sure to tell them that you are contacting their ministry because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to trustees' requests for more funding!**

My biggest education-related concern is: (please pursue more than one, if applicable!):

- [Ensuring that **Back to Basics** has the funding it needs to succeed](#)
- [**French-Immersion** program failures](#)
- [Cuts to **Learn4Life** Continuing Education \(**for seniors**\)](#)
- [Community impact of cuts to **Learn4Life** Continuing Education \(**for non-seniors**\)](#)
- [Education is a critical **Public Service** \(**for parents**\)](#)
- [Education is a critical **Public Service** \(**for Learn4Life Learners**\)](#)
- [**Special Education** program failures](#)
- [**Poor mental health, suicide, and drug abuse** epidemics in our schools](#)
- [**Overcrowded classes/schools, and the health and safety** of children in K-12](#)
- [More Funding for **Teacher Colleges**](#)
- [**Economic impacts** of a weak public school system](#)
- [Cuts to **Outdoor Education** programs](#)
- [Cuts to **International Language and African Heritage Language** programs](#)

Do you see an error? Have a suggestion? Please email torontosccoalition@gmail.com

1. MINISTER OF EDUCATION



Hon. Stephen Lecce

 **King—Vaughan**

Current roles
Minister of Education

Party
 Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

CONTACT INFO

Ministry of Education
5th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5
Tel.: 416-325-2600
Minister.EDU@ontario.ca
Stephen.Lecce@pc.ola.org

CALL SCRIPT

Ministry of Education
Hon. Stephen Lecce
Tel.: 416-325-2600

Hello, I would like to leave a message for the Honourable Minister Lecce:

- I am an Ontario [parent, educator, etc] concerned about the chronic underfunding of our school boards, due to a failure to keep up with inflation.
- The new funding package for 2024-25 represents an increase of 2.7%, whereas inflation is running at 2.9%.
- An effective shortfall of 0.2% is still unacceptable, and does nothing to address the \$1,500 per pupil that has been lost to inflation since 2018.
- This underfunding has created a crisis in our schools.
- **Briefly describe your child's experience with underfunded schools.**
- **DIRECT ASK: I am calling today to ask Minister Lecce to revise the recent funding package, ensure that the provincial government fund 100% of education costs, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards this year for providing essential education services.**
- I would like a response from Minister Lecce.

EMAIL SAMPLE

To: Stephen.Lecce@pc.ola.org, Minister.EDU@ontario.ca

Cc: premier@ontario.ca, torontosccoalition@gmail.com

RE: Student Needs - Fund Every Penny

Dear Hon. Minister Lecce,

I'm writing to you today as a concerned Ontario parent. I am heartened by this government's commitment to improving the quality of literacy and math instruction, especially the 2023 launch of a new language curriculum based on the science of reading, and the renewed focus on student achievement. Nevertheless, I write today with grave concerns about Ontario's chronic pattern of structural underfunding of education. Structural underfunding refers to a condition wherein my school board spends more on delivering education than it receives in funding from the province. Because the province fails to fully fund hard costs of education, including teachers, staff, and standardized materials, new curricular programs will do little to improve outcomes. Moreover, it's hard to think about curricular overhaul when our schools are at such a breaking point.

[Please add a description of your child's experience with:

- **A lack of adequate teachers and staff**
- **A lack of teacher training to be able to deliver the new literacy curriculum**
- **A lack of standard curricular materials**
- **Increasing teacher burnout]**

I am angry about your claims that funding for education has meaningfully increased over time. This is a lie. The new funding package for 2024-25 represents a nominal increase of 2.7%, while inflation is running at 2.9%. Although this is technically an increase in terms of dollar figures, it still constitutes an effective shortfall because it fails to keep up with inflation. An effective shortfall of 0.2% is still unacceptable this year, and does nothing to address the \$1,500 per pupil that has been lost to inflation since 2018. This failure to keep up with inflation is unacceptable and should be illegal under the Education Act. **I am asking that the Ministry of Education fund 100% of education costs for the upcoming 2024-25 school year, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards this year for providing essential education services.**

2. MINISTER OF FRANCOPHONE AFFAIRS




Hon. Caroline Mulroney

 York—Simcoe

Current roles

Minister of Francophone Affairs | President of the Treasury Board

Party

 Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

CONTACT INFO

Ministry of Francophone Affairs
Suite 2501
700 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 0A2
Tel.: 416-327-9200
Caroline.Mulroney@pc.ola.org

CALL SCRIPT

Ministry of Francophone Affairs
Hon. Caroline Mulroney
Tel.: 416-327-9200

Hello, I would like to leave a message for the Honourable Minister Mulroney:

- I am a Francophone Ontario constituent unsatisfied with the resources available for French instruction and my child's experience in French immersion
- **Briefly describe your child's experience.**
- Because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our Trustees for more funding I am requesting assistance from your ministry.
- I am upset that provincial funding for the coming school year does not keep up with inflation, let alone improve the current situation of French-speaking students.
- **DIRECT ASK: I am calling today to ask Minister Mulroney to please use her influence as Minister of Francophone Affairs to ensure that the provincial government fund 100% of education costs, including incentives and training for well-qualified French-language teachers, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards for providing these essential education services.**
- I would like a response from Minister Mulroney.

EMAIL SAMPLE

To: Caroline.Mulroney@pc.ola.org

Cc: premier@ontario.ca, Stephen.Lecce@pc.ola.org, Minister.EDU@ontario.ca, torontosccoalition@gmail.com

RE: Francophone Education - Fund Every Penny

Dear Hon. Minister Mulroney,

I write to you as a concerned parent of a child in a French immersion program in Ontario. I understand that the Ministry of Education recently released funding for the coming school year, and I do not believe it is sufficient to meet our family's needs or the needs of the Francophone community. Cumulative years of underfunding have left our French-language academic programs in bad condition. Because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our Trustees for more funding I am requesting assistance from your ministry.

[Please add a description of your child's experience, which might include:

- **A lack of teachers qualified to teach in French**
- **A lack of standard curricular materials in French**
- **A lack of respect for teachers, who must invest their own funds in creating or assembling suitable materials**
- **A lack of program interventions for students who need extra help in French]**

It is clear that to properly deliver French education, much more funding is required. Unfortunately, the current rate of inflation is 2.9%, whereas the increase to education funding for 2024-25 is only 2.7%. Although the difference of 0.2% seems like a small gap, there is no reason why parents should have to accept any gap at all. Rather, we need heavy investments into education to return to the standards of just a few years ago, because cumulative cuts have reduced inflation-adjusted per pupil spending by \$1,500 since 2018.

I am angry that the Minister of Education claims that funding for education has increased. This is a lie. Although dollar figures are nominally higher this year, inflation and past cuts mean that our school board now spends more on delivering education than it receives in funding from the province. The structural underfunding of our school boards should be illegal under the Education Act. **I ask you to please use your influence as Minister of Francophone Affairs to ensure that the provincial government funds 100% of education costs, including incentives and training for well-qualified French-language teachers, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent this year by school boards for providing essential education services.**

3. MINISTER FOR SENIORS & ACCESSIBILITY




Hon. Raymond Sung Joon Cho

 Scarborough North

Current roles

Minister for Seniors and Accessibility

Party

 Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

CONTACT INFO

Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility
777 Bay St., 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1S5
Tel.: 416-314-0797 / Toll free: 1-888-910-1999
Raymond.Cho@pc.ola.org

SENIORS: CALL SCRIPT

Ministry of Seniors & Accessibility
Hon. Raymond Cho
Tel.: 416-314-0797

Hello, I would like to leave a message for the Honourable Minister Cho:

- I am an Ontario constituent and senior [or I am calling on behalf of a senior] about proposed cuts to the Learn4Life program, which is utilized by people of all ages, especially seniors.
- The Learn4Life program is a vital lifeline that builds community and gives seniors an opportunity to socialize and keep busy.
- Cuts to the Learn4Life program would disproportionately impact seniors.
- While the TDSB trustees recently voted to postpone decisions about the Learn4Life program, provincial funding for the coming school year once again fails to keep up with inflation.
- This means that cuts to Learn4Life will be back on the table.
- **DIRECT ASK: I am calling today to ask Minister Cho to please use his influence as Minister of Seniors and Accessibility to ensure that the provincial government funds 100% of education costs, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent this year by school boards for providing essential education services, from K-12 through Learn4 Life.**
- I would like a response from Minister Cho.

SENIORS: EMAIL SAMPLE

To: Raymond.Cho@pc.ola.org

Cc: premier@ontario.ca, Stephen.Lecce@pc.ola.org, Minister.EDU@ontario.ca, torontosccoalition@gmail.com

RE: Education Programs for Seniors - Fund Every Penny

Dear Hon. Minister Cho,

I write to you as a senior in Ontario, and a lifelong learner. I understand that the Ministry of Education recently released funding amounts for the coming school year. It is clear that the funding is not sufficient to meet the needs of seniors like me who rely on continuing education like the TDSB's Learn4Life program.

[Please add a description of your experience, which might include:

- **What programs you have participated in, and for how long.**
- **What they mean to you and your community.]**

Cumulative years of underfunding put these vital programs at risk. Because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our Trustees for more funding I am requesting assistance from your ministry. In order to strengthen our communities, we need our leaders to show a strong commitment to life-long education. To do this, much more funding is required. Unfortunately, the current rate of inflation is 2.9%, whereas the Ministry of Education's proposed increase to education funding for 2024-25 is only 2.7%. Although the difference of 0.2% seems like a small gap, there is no reason why seniors should have to accept any gap at all. Rather, we need heavy investments into education at all levels.

I am angry that the Minister of Education claims that funding for education has increased. This is a lie. Although dollar figures are nominally higher this year, inflation and past cuts mean that our school board now spends more on delivering continuing education than it receives in funding from the province. **I ask you to please use your influence as Minister of Seniors and Accessibility to ensure that the provincial government funds 100% of education costs, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards this year to provide essential education services, from K-12 through Learn4 Life.**

ACCESSIBILITY: CALL SCRIPT

Ministry of Seniors & Accessibility
Hon. Raymond Cho
Tel.: 416-314-0797

Hello, I would like to leave a message for the Honourable Minister Cho:

- I am an Ontario constituent and parent of a child with a disability.
- I am calling about the failure of the province to provide adequate, accessible education to my child.
- **Briefly describe your child's experiences.**
- Because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our Trustees for more funding I am requesting assistance from your ministry.
- I am upset that provincial funding for the coming school year does not keep up with inflation, let alone improve the current situation for Special Education students. Disabled students need funding over and above inflation, not below.
- **DIRECT ASK: I am calling today to ask Minister Cho to please use his influence as Minister of Accessibility to ensure that the provincial government funds 100% of education costs, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards to provide essential education services, including the adequate staffing of educational assistants and special education teachers, and other inclusion supports.**
- I would like a response from Minister Cho.

ACCESSIBILITY: EMAIL SAMPLE

To: Raymond.Cho@pc.ola.org

Cc: premier@ontario.ca, Stephen.Lecce@pc.ola.org, Minister.EDU@ontario.ca, torontosccoalition@gmail.com

RE: Accessible Education - Fund Every Penny

Dear Hon. Minister Cho,

I write to you as a concerned parent of a disabled child in Ontario. I understand that the Ministry of Education recently released funding for the coming school year, and I do not believe it is sufficient to meet our family's needs or the needs of students with disabilities. Because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our Trustees for more funding I am requesting assistance from your ministry. Cumulative years of underfunding have left special needs students routinely excluded from school.

[Please add a description of your child's experience, which might include:

- **Inclusion without enough support to ensure accessibility**
- **A lack of adequate staff to meet student needs**
- **Hard or soft exclusions from school]**

It is clear that to properly deliver accessible special education, much more funding is required. Unfortunately, the current rate of inflation is 2.9%, whereas the increase to education funding for 2024-25 is only 2.7%. Although the difference of 0.2% seems like a small gap, there is no reason why parents should have to accept any gap at all. Rather, we need heavy investments into education to return to the standards of just a few years ago, because cumulative cuts have reduced inflation-adjusted per pupil spending by \$1,500 since 2018.

I am angry that the Minister of Education claims that funding for education has increased. This is a lie. Although dollar figures are nominally higher this year, inflation and past cuts mean that our school board now spends more on delivering special education than it receives in funding from the province. The structural underfunding of our school boards should be illegal under the Education Act. **I ask you to please use your influence as Minister of Seniors and Accessibility to ensure that the provincial government funds 100% of education costs, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards to provide essential education services, including the adequate staffing of educational assistants and special education teachers, and other inclusion supports.**

4. MINISTER OF CHILDREN, COMMUNITY, & SOCIAL SERVICES




Hon. Michael Parsa

 **Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill**

Current roles

Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

Party

 Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
7th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8
Tel.: 416-325-5225
Michael.Parsaco@pc.ola.org

CHILDREN: CALL SCRIPT

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
Hon. Michael Parsa
Tel.: 416-325-5225

Hello, I would like to leave a message for the Honourable Minister Parsa:

- I am an Ontario constituent [and parent / educator / etc] concerned about how Ontario is neglecting the health and safety of children at school.
- Because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our Trustees for more funding I am requesting assistance from your ministry.
- **Briefly describe your or your child's experience, which could include bullying made worse by lack of supervision, unsafe buildings, etc.**
- I am upset that provincial funding for the coming school year does not keep up with inflation, let alone improve poor conditions due to chronic underfunding.
- **DIRECT ASK: I am calling today to ask Minister Parsa to please use his influence as Minister of Children, Community and Social Services to ensure that the provincial government fund 100% of education costs, including incentives and training for well-qualified teachers and staff, building improvements, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards to provide essential education services, including health and safety.**
- I would like a response from Minister Parsa.

CHILDREN: EMAIL SAMPLE

To: Michael.Parsaco@pc.ola.org

Cc: premier@ontario.ca, Stephen.Lecce@pc.ola.org, Minister.EDU@ontario.ca, torontosccoalition@gmail.com

RE: Child Welfare at School - Fund Every Penny

Dear Hon. Minister Parsa,

I write to you as a concerned **parent** in Ontario. I understand that the Ministry of Education recently released funding for the coming school year, and I do not believe it is sufficient to meet our family's needs or the needs of most families. Because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our Trustees for more funding I am requesting assistance from your ministry. Cumulative years of underfunding have left our public schools operating with skeletal staff, while at the same time the needs of children have grown more complex. For example, more than half of Ontario students (59%) reported that the pandemic has left them more depressed about the future, and one in five Toronto households report food insecurity, according to [a recent public health report](#).

[Please add a description of your child's experience, which might include:

- **A lack of safety due to inadequate staff**
- **A lack of materials and resources to meet student needs]**

It is clear that to keep our children safe and healthy at school, much more funding is required. Unfortunately, the current rate of inflation is 2.9%, whereas the increase to education funding for 2024-25 is only 2.7%. Although the difference of 0.2% seems like a small gap, there is no reason why parents should have to accept any gap at all. Rather, we need heavy investments into education to return to the standards of just a few years ago, because cumulative cuts have reduced inflation-adjusted per pupil spending by \$1,500 since 2018.

I am angry that the Minister of Education claims that funding for education has increased. This is a lie. Although dollar figures are nominally higher this year, inflation and past cuts mean that our school board now spends more on safety, staff, and resources than it receives in funding from the province. The structural underfunding of our school boards should be illegal under the Education Act. **I ask you to please use your influence as Minister of Children, Community and Social Services to ensure that the provincial government funds 100% of education costs, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards this year to provide essential education services, including adequate staffing and other resources that ensure the health and safety of our children.**

COMMUNITY: CALL SCRIPT

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
Hon. Michael Parsa
Tel.: 416-325-5225

Hello, I would like to leave a message for the Honourable Minister Parsa:

- I am an Ontario constituent and part of a community of lifelong learners.
- I am calling about proposed cuts to the TDSB's Learn4Life continuing education program and potential impacts of those cuts on my community.
- **Because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our Trustees for more funding I am requesting assistance from your ministry.**
- The Learn4Life program is a vital lifeline that brings together adults of all ages and profiles, from immigrants to people born in Canada, young and old.
- While the TDSB trustees recently voted to postpone decisions about the Learn4Life program, provincial funding for the coming school year once again fails to keep up with inflation.
- This means that cuts to Learn4Life will be back on the table.
- **DIRECT ASK: I am calling today to ask Minister Parsa to please use his influence as Minister of Children, Community and Social Services to ensure that the provincial government funds 100% of education costs, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent this year by school boards to provide essential education services, including Learn4 Life.**
- I would like a response from Minister Parsa.

COMMUNITY: EMAIL SAMPLE

To: Michael.Parsaco@pc.ola.org

Cc: premier@ontario.ca, Stephen.Lecce@pc.ola.org, Minister.EDU@ontario.ca, torontosccoalition@gmail.com

RE: Community Learning - Fund Every Penny

Dear Hon. Minister Parsa,

I write to you as a member of a community of lifelong learners in Ontario. We are united through a continuing education program called Learn4Life, offered by the TDSB.

Community programs like these are invaluable for bringing people together, including folks who would otherwise have few avenues for socialization, including seniors and immigrants.

[Please add a description of your experience, which might include:

- **What programs you have participated in, and for how long.**
- **What they mean to you and your community.]**


I understand that the Ministry of Education recently released funding amounts for the coming school year. It is clear that the proposed funding is not sufficient to meet the educational needs of all Ontarians, and vital programs like Learn4Life are now at risk. I am writing to ask for your help. In order to strengthen our communities, we need our leaders to show a strong commitment to life-long education. To do this, much more funding is required for our school boards. Unfortunately, the current rate of inflation is 2.9%, whereas the Ministry of Education's proposed increase to education funding for 2024-25 is only 2.7%. Although the difference of 0.2% seems like a small gap, there is no reason why Ontarians should have to accept any gap at all. Rather, we need heavy provincial investments into education at all levels.

I am angry that the Minister of Education claims that funding for education has increased. This is a lie. Although dollar figures are nominally higher this year, inflation and past cuts mean that our school board now spends more on delivering continuing education than it receives in funding from the province. **I ask you to please use your influence as Minister of Children, Community and Social Services to ensure that the provincial government funds 100% of education costs, from K-12 through continuing education, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards this year for providing essential education services, including Learn4 Life.**

5. ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS



Hon. Michael A. Tibollo

 **Vaughan—Woodbridge**

Current roles

Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

Party



Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

Ministry of Health
Frost Building South
7 Queens Park Circle
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7
Tel.: 416-327-4300
Michael.Tiboloco@pc.ola.org

CALL SCRIPT

Hello, I would like to leave a message for the Honourable Minister Tibollo:

- I am an Ontario constituent and parent [educator, etc].
- I am deeply concerned with how Ontario is neglecting the mental health and well-being of our children at school due to inadequate staff and resources.
- According to [provincial data](#), 1 in 5 children in Ontario has a mental health condition.
- Not only do mental health conditions make learning more difficult, they put our children's lives at risk due to increased rates of suicide and self-harm, as well as drug use, abuse and overdose.
- **Briefly describe your or your child's experience, and/or that of their friends or school community of which you may be aware. Please consider that mental health challenges may present differently for different children, and that instances of defiance, apathy, drug use/abuse, anxiety, and self-harm can all suggest the presence of underlying mental health conditions.**
- Addressing student mental health is the responsibility of the province. Although increases have been made to the Ministry of Education's proposed 2024-2025 budget, an increase of a few percentage points is not enough. Our schools need

ten times more social workers and psychologists than are currently available to address the current crisis.

- Exacerbating the mental health crisis for our children is a general decline in the quality of public education, which may contribute to their feelings of hopelessness about the future.
- **DIRECT ASK: I am calling today to ask Minister Tibollo to please use his influence as Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to ensure that the provincial government fund 100% of education costs, including in-school social workers, crisis counselors, and harm reduction training and materials for teachers and staff. In order to solve this mental health and addiction crisis, we need the province to immediately refund every penny that is owed to school boards for providing essential education services for the current year, including but not limited to mental health supports and caring adults at schools.**
- I would like a response from Minister Tibollo.

EMAIL SAMPLE

To: Michael.Tiboloco@pc.ola.org

Cc: premier@ontario.ca, Stephen.Lecce@pc.ola.org, Minister.EDU@ontario.ca, torontosccoalition@gmail.com

RE: Student Mental Health - Fund Every Penny

Dear Hon. Minister Tibollo,

I am contacting the Ministry of Health and Addictions because I have grave concerns over the astounding mental health crisis that is destroying the lives of our youth. According to [provincial data](#), one in five Ontario youth have a mental health condition, and, according to [Toronto Public Health](#), over half of Ontario students (59%) reported that the pandemic has left them more depressed about the future. I believe that this mental health and drug crisis is made worse by our increasingly underfunded delivery of public education in Ontario. Because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our Trustees for more funding I am requesting assistance from your ministry.

As a **parent**, I can see plainly that public school learning conditions are in a state of significant dysfunction.

[Please add a description of your experience, which might include:

- **Cuts to staff and resources that have devastated teachers' ability to teach and the ability of children to learn**
- **Declining mental health of students AND teachers**
- **Lack of caring adults that have left students feeling unsupported**
- **An apparent epidemic of drug use/abuse, overdose, and suicide]**

I am upset that the Minister of Education continues to claim that school funding is robust. Whatever has been done is not enough, and our children's needs are simply not being met at school. This lack of compassion and responsiveness by adults in charge contributes to their perception that the future is bleak. They know that drugs, alcohol and cigarettes can kill. Unfortunately, epidemics of addiction and suicide cannot be addressed if children simply don't care whether they live or die.

Although the proposed education budget is nominally higher for the coming year, inflation and past cuts mean that our school board now has even less to spend on social workers and psychologists at school. **I ask you to please use your influence as Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to ensure that the provincial government funds 100% of education costs, from K-12 through continuing education, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards this year for providing essential education services, including**

expenditures for mental health, social workers, and other caring adults in our schools.

6. MINISTER OF PUBLIC AND BUSINESS SERVICE DELIVERY



Hon. Todd J. McCarthy

 **Durham**

Current roles
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery

Party
 Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

CONTACT INFO

Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery
5th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416-212-2665 / Toll free: 1-844-286-8404 / TTY: 1-844-403-5904
Todd.McCarthy@pc.ola.org

PARENT: CALL SCRIPT

Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery
Hon. Todd J. McCarthy
Tel.: 416-212-2665

Hello, I would like to leave a message for the Honourable Minister McCarthy:

- I am an Ontario constituent and parent concerned with Ontario's failure to maintain high quality public education as a critical public service.
- Because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our Trustees for more funding I am requesting assistance from your ministry.
- **Briefly describe your or your child's experience, which may include: reductions in staff which make school ineffective or even unsafe, lack of equitable educational opportunities, lack of high-quality materials and well-trained, well-supported teachers.**

- This lack of resources is primarily due to education funding from the province that has not been keeping up with inflation, let alone the increasingly complex needs of our students.
- Even the most recent funding package for 2024-25 does not even meet the current inflation rate or address the effects of chronic underfunding.
- **DIRECT ASK: I am calling today to ask Minister McCarthy to please use his influence as Minister of Public and Business Services to ensure that the provincial government prioritizes free, high-quality public education as an important public service, fund 100% of education costs, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards this year to provide essential education services.**
- I would like a response from Minister McCarthy.

PARENT: EMAIL SAMPLE

To: Todd.McCarthy@pc.ola.org

Cc: premier@ontario.ca, Stephen.Lecce@pc.ola.org, Minister.EDU@ontario.ca, torontosccoalition@gmail.com

RE: Public Education is a Public Service - Fund Every Penny

Dear Hon. Minister McCarthy,

I am contacting the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery because I believe that public education is a critical public service, and I have grave concerns over the declining quality of public education due to chronic underfunding. Because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our Trustees for more funding, I am seeking assistance from your ministry.

As a parent, I can see plainly that the learning conditions for my child are in a state of significant dysfunction.

[Please briefly add detail about your child's experience, which may include:

- **Reductions in staff which make school ineffective or even unsafe**
- **Lack of equitable educational opportunities**
- **Lack of high-quality materials and well-trained, well-supported teachers]**

It is obvious that from year to year, cumulative cuts to staff and resources are taking a devastating toll on the ability of teachers to teach and of children to learn. Despite his claim that education funding is robust, the Ministry of Education is failing to provide adequate funding required for our schools to properly deliver adequate and equitable educational services. The new Core Education funding package does not meet the current inflation rate, and does nothing to compensate for the long-term failure by the province to fully cover essential expenditures, like teacher salaries and benefits, special

education, and early education. How can the province, which is responsible for providing compulsory education to students of all backgrounds and abilities, be allowed to continuously shortchange such a critical public service?

Our school boards should not be forced to operate under conditions of structural underfunding. Every penny of essential education delivery should be 100% funded. **I ask you to please use your influence as Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery to ensure that the provincial government prioritizes free, high-quality public education as an important public service, end structural underfunding going forward, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards this year for providing essential education services.**

ADULT LEARNERS: CALL SCRIPT

Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery

Hon. Todd J. McCarthy

Tel.: 416-212-2665

Hello, I would like to leave a message for the Honourable Minister McCarthy:

- I am an Ontario constituent who believes that in addition to K-12, continuing adult education is a critical public service.
- **Please briefly describe your experience and why continuing education provides an important public service, e.g. it provides vital opportunities for socialization for communities that have not fully recovered from the social impacts of COVID-19; it improves mental and physical health, etc.**
- Due to chronic underfunding of school boards from a failure to keep up with inflation, this vital continuing education program is at risk.
- The most recent funding package for 2024-25 offers little to reverse the damage of chronic underfunding, and does not even meet the current inflation rate.
- Because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our Trustees for more funding I am requesting assistance from your ministry.
- **DIRECT ASK: I am calling today to ask Minister McCarthy to please use his influence as Minister of Public and Business Services to ensure that the provincial government prioritizes free, high-quality public education for all ages as an important public service, fund 100% of education costs, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards this year to provide essential education services, including for continuing education.**
- I would like a response from Minister McCarthy.

ADULT LEARNERS: EMAIL SAMPLE

To: Todd.McCarthy@pc.ola.org

Cc: premier@ontario.ca, Stephen.Lecce@pc.ola.org, Minister.EDU@ontario.ca, torontosccoalition@gmail.com

RE: Public Education is a Public Service - Fund Every Penny

Dear Hon. Minister McCarthy,

I am contacting the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery because I believe that public education is a critical public service, and I have grave concerns over the ability of the province to meet its obligations in providing public education, due to chronic underfunding. Because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our Trustees for more funding, I am seeking assistance from the Ministry of Public Services.

As a lifelong learner, my life has been enriched by my school board's continuing education program. But due to chronic underfunding from the province, this program is at risk.

[Please briefly add detail about your experience and why continuing education provides an important public service, for example:

- **It builds intergenerational relationships that are important for community**
- **It provides vital opportunities for socialization for communities that have not fully recovered from the social impacts of COVID-19**
- **It improves mental and physical health]**

Despite his claim that education funding is robust, the Ministry of Education is failing to provide adequate funding required to maintain high quality public education, and has implied in his statements that he does not value the adult continuing education program that provides a critical public service to lifelong learners. The new Core Education funding package does not meet the current inflation rate, and does nothing to compensate for the long-term failure by the province to fully cover essential expenditures, including for continuing education.

Our school boards should not be forced to operate under conditions of structural underfunding. Every penny of essential education delivery should be 100% funded. **I ask you to please use your influence as Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery to ensure that the provincial government prioritizes free, high-quality public education for all ages as an important public service, end structural underfunding going forward, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards this year for providing essential education services, including continuing education.**

7. MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND PARKS



Hon. Andrea Khanjin

📍 **Barrie—Innisfil**

Current roles

Deputy Government House Leader | Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Party

■ Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

CONTACT INFO

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
5th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Tel: 416-314-6790
andrea.khanjin@pc.ola.org

CALL SCRIPT

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Hon. Andrea Khanjin
Tel.: 416-314-6790

Hello, I would like to leave a message for the Honourable Minister Khanjin:

- I am an Ontario [parent/educator] concerned about a reduction in access to outdoor education at our public schools next year.
- **Briefly describe your or your child's experience with outdoor education programs through the public school system, how it supports lifelong love of the environment and our natural Ontario flora and fauna, etc.**
- Cuts to outdoor education have been made because our school board spends more than it receives from the provincial government to deliver education.
- Because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our Trustees for more funding, I am seeking assistance from your ministry.
- I am upset that the Ministry of Education claims that funding is robust, when in fact adjusted for inflation, per pupil funding has declined by \$1,500 since 2018.
- **DIRECT ASK: I am calling today to ask Minister Khanjin to please use her influence as Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks to ensure that the provincial government fund 100% of education costs, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards for providing these essential education services.**
- I would like a response from Minister Khanjin.

EMAIL SAMPLE

To: andrea.khanjin@pc.ola.org

Cc: premier@ontario.ca, Stephen.Lecce@pc.ola.org, Minister.EDU@ontario.ca, torontosccoalition@gmail.com

RE: Outdoor Education - Fund Every Penny

Dear Hon. Minister Khanjin,

I write to you as a concerned **parent** in Ontario concerned about the ability of our public schools to teach children the value of nature and conservation. Specifically, I oppose proposed cuts that would reduce student access to outdoor education programs available through our school board. Because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our Trustees for more funding, I am seeking assistance from your ministry.

[Please add a description of your child's positive experience with outdoor education, which might include:

- **How it fostered a love of being in nature**
- **How it developed a familiarity with native Ontario flora and fauna, and an understanding of the importance of restoring natural habitats**
- **How it allowed students to share a unique experience in nature that they will always associate with growing up in Ontario]**

Outdoor education programs like these should be fully funded by the province. I am angry that the Minister of Education claims that funding for education has increased. This is a lie. Although dollar figures are nominally higher this year, inflation and cumulative cuts from recent years mean that our school board now spends more on delivering education than it receives in funding from the province. Recent adjustments to the way the funding is organized do nothing to address this structural underfunding. For example, the current rate of inflation is 2.9%, while the increase to education funding for 2024-25 is only 2.7%. Although the difference of 0.2% seems like a small gap, there is no reason why parents should have to accept any gap at all. This gap, on top of cumulative gaps for the last number of years, put essential programs like outdoor education at risk. The structural underfunding of our school boards should be illegal under the Education Act. **I ask you to please use your influence as Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks to ensure that the provincial government funds 100% of education costs, including outdoor education, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent this year by school boards for providing essential education services.**

8. MINISTER OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



Hon. Jill Dunlop

 **Simcoe North**

Current roles
Minister of Colleges and Universities

Party
 Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

CONTACT INFO

Ministry of Colleges and Universities
5th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3
Tel.: 416-326-1600
Jill.Dunlop@pc.ola.org

CALL SCRIPT

Ministry of Colleges and Universities
Hon. Jill Dunlop
Tel.: 416-326-1600

Hello, I would like to leave a message for the Honourable Minister Dunlop:

- I am an Ontario [parent/educator] concerned that Ontario is not properly training its teachers at the post-secondary level to teach kids how to read and write, or teaching them to recognize learning difficulties and intervene.
- **Briefly describe your child's experience with learning how to read/write or understand math in the public school system due to inconsistent teaching.**
- Poorly trained teachers graduating year upon year, means schools are staffed by teachers who don't have the skills to meet our children's academic needs
- **DIRECT ASK: I am calling today to ask Minister Dunlop to ensure that curriculum in the Teachers Colleges be urgently redesigned to align with the Back to Basics curriculum. I ask Minister Dunlop to work with the Ministry of Education to fund every penny required to implement Back to Basics, including 100% of costs to create standardized elementary curricular materials and teacher training and re-training, as necessary.**
- I would like a response from Minister Dunlop

EMAIL SAMPLE

To: Jill.Dunlop@pc.ola.org;

Cc: premier@ontario.ca, Minister.EDU@ontario.ca, torontosccoalition@gmail.com

RE: Ontario Teachers Colleges - Fund Every Penny

Dear Hon. Minister Dunlop and Hon. Minister Lecce,

I am contacting you as a **parent** concerned about the failure of Ontario's teachers colleges to adequately train teachers to meet the academic needs of Ontario's children.

[Please add a description of your child's experience with math and language learning in Ontario public schools, for example:

- **Related to outcomes with reading ability;**
- **Related to outcomes with writing ability, including being able to form letters legibly, or compose texts;**
- **Related to outcomes with math ability;**
- **Related to an overreliance on technology rather than effective instruction;**
- **Related to diagnosed or undiagnosed learning difficulties;**
- **Related to expenditures of your own time and/or money to ensure your child(ren) develop fundamental math and literacy skills]**

No parent with children in Ontario's public school system should have to worry their child is not learning how to read and write. No parent with children in the public school system should have to pay a tutor to ensure their child has basic math and literacy skills. No parent with children in the public schools should have to spend precious family time trying to make up for the failures of the educational system.

And yet, these conditions not only exist, but are allowed to persist due to chronic underfunding of our public schools, including higher education. Underfunding of teachers colleges produces underprepared teachers who contribute to systemic failures in our schools. This is unacceptable. Ontario teaching candidates need comprehensive training for how to effectively teach the province's children how to read and write in accordance with Back to Basics, training on how to identify signs of learning disabilities, and free access to standardized materials. Accomplishing this will require significantly more funding, well above the rate of inflation.

Please ensure that every penny of this badly-needed overhaul of our Ontario Teachers' Colleges, in alignment with Back to Basics, is funded by the province to ensure all public school children graduate with robust and comprehensive math and literacy skills.

9. MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JOB CREATION AND TRADE




Hon. Victor Fedeli

 **Nipissing**

Current roles

Chair of Cabinet | Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

Party

 Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

CONTACT INFO

Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
18th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1S5
Tel.: 416-326-8475
Vic.Fedelico@pc.ola.org

CALL SCRIPT

Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
Hon. Victor Fedeli
Tel.: 416-326-8475

Hello, I would like to leave a message for the Honourable Minister Fedeli:

- I am an Ontario constituent and parent concerned with Ontario's failure to maintain high quality public education, and the impact that will have on our economic future and way of life.
- I am requesting assistance from your ministry because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our Trustees.
- **Briefly describe your experience involving failure by the school system to effectively meet your child's academic needs; a failure to provide a rigorous academic program to most students; a failure of the school system to match the academic rigor of public schools in other countries, including developing countries.**
- These failures have been worsening over time, and correlate with declining school funding since the late 1990s, and accelerating since 2018.
- The most recent funding package from the Ministry of Education for 2024-25 does not meet the current inflation rate, let alone address the effects of chronic underfunding.

- A failure to provide robust funding to school boards, well above the inflation rate, will result in a declining global competitiveness due to poorly educated citizens.
- **DIRECT ASK: I am calling today to ask Minister Fedeli to please use his influence as Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade to ensure that the provincial government prioritizes free, high-quality public education as an important factor in job creation, global competitiveness, and economic prosperity. To do this, the province must fund 100% of education costs, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards this year to provide essential education services.**
- I would like a response from Minister Fedeli.

EMAIL SAMPLE

To: vic.Fedelico@pc.ola.org

Cc: premier@ontario.ca, Stephen.Lecce@pc.ola.org, Minister.EDU@ontario.ca, torontosccoalition@gmail.com

RE: Public Education for Economic Prosperity - Fund Every Penny

Dear Hon. Minister Fedeli,

I am contacting the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade because I believe that successful, high-quality public education is critically important to the economic prosperity of Ontario, and I have grave concerns over the declining quality of public education due to chronic underfunding. I am seeking assistance from your ministry because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our school board trustees for more funding.

As a parent, I can see plainly that public school is failing.

[Please briefly add detail about your views in relation to child's experience, which may include:

- **Reductions in staff mean that behavioural problems can't be properly addressed and as a result students feel emboldened to disregard authority or behave badly**
- **Lack of proper materials and properly trained teachers mean the students fail to develop critical thinking skills**
- **Lack of standards mean that our students, as future workers, won't be able to compete in the global economy]**


These failures are a result of chronic underfunding. Despite his claim that education funding is robust, the new Core Education funding package does not meet the current inflation rate, and does nothing to compensate for the long-term failure by the province to fully cover essential expenditures, like teacher salaries and benefits, special education, and early education.

Our school boards should not be forced to operate under conditions of structural underfunding. Every penny of education delivery should be 100% funded. **I ask you to please use your influence as Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade to ensure that the provincial government prioritizes free, high-quality public education as an important factor in job creation, global competitiveness, and economic prosperity. To do this, the province must fund 100% of education costs, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards on meeting student needs this year.**

10. MINISTER OF CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURALISM




Hon. Michael D. Ford

 York South—Weston

Current roles

Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

Party

 Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

CONTACT INFO

Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
14th Floor
56 Wellesley St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2E7
Tel.: 416-212-0036
Michael.Ford@pc.ola.org

CALL SCRIPT

Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
Hon. Michael Ford
Tel.: 416-212-0036

Hello, I would like to leave a message for the Honourable Minister Ford:

- I am an Ontario constituent and parent concerned with Ontario's failure to maintain and encourage multicultural and heritage language programs in our public schools.
- I am requesting assistance from your ministry because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our trustees.
- **Briefly describe your experience with the international languages program and/or African heritage language program and the positive impact for you child, your family, and your community.**
- Although our trustees have been reluctant to make changes to these valuable multicultural programs, underfunding by the province means that they will continue to be at risk of restructuring that may limit their accessibility and effectiveness.
- Contrary to the Minister of Education's claims that school funding is robust, the most recent funding package from the Ministry of Education for 2024-25 does not

meet the current inflation rate, let alone address the effects of chronic underfunding.

- **DIRECT ASK: I am calling today to ask Minister Ford to please use his influence as Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism to ensure that the provincial government prioritizes free, high-quality public education by funding 100% of education costs, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards this year to provide essential education services, including international and multicultural language programs.**
- I would like a response from Minister Ford.

EMAIL SAMPLE

To: Michael.Ford@pc.ola.org

Cc: premier@ontario.ca, Stephen.Lecce@pc.ola.org, Minister.EDU@ontario.ca, torontosccoalition@gmail.com

RE: International and Multicultural Language Programs - Fund Every Penny

Dear Hon. Minister Ford,

I am contacting the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism because I am a strong supporter of international and multicultural language programs available in our public schools, and I am concerned about the impact of chronic underfunding on these programs. I am seeking assistance from your ministry because the Ministry of Education has been unresponsive to requests by our school board trustees for more funding.

As a parent, my child, my family, and my community have all benefited from these language programs.

[Please briefly add detail about your and your child's experience with the international languages program or the multicultural languages program, and how they have benefited your child, your family, and your community.]

Sadly, access to these valuable language programs is at risk because our school board spends more on education than it receives from the province. Despite his claim that education funding is robust, the new Core Education funding package does not meet the current inflation rate, and does nothing to compensate for the long-term failure by the province to fully cover essential expenditures, like teacher salaries and benefits, special education, and early education.

Our school boards should not be forced to operate under conditions of structural underfunding. Every penny of education delivery should be 100% funded. **I ask you to please use your influence as Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism to**

ensure that the provincial government prioritizes free, high-quality public education, including the availability of international and multicultural language programs, and immediately refund every penny that has been spent by school boards this year to meet student needs.