



OTTAWA-CARLETON  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*Office of the Chair of the Board*

29 June 2016

Dear Member of Parliament,

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board supports Bill C-241, *An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (school authorities)*. This proposed bill would amend the *Excise Tax Act* so as to increase the goods and services tax rebate rate for school authorities from 68 percent to 100 percent.

Charging the GST on school board purchases means that the federal government is, in effect, adding a layer of taxation. This form of double taxation costs school boards millions of dollars, makes no sense, and takes money away from the classrooms where it belongs.

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board continuously strives to innovate, to streamline, and become more effective in the face of increasingly restricted resources. The GST exacerbates these struggles. In addition, it imposes a complicated and expensive administrative burden. The current system of rebates, claims, and payments is onerous and complex and, in pursuit of maximizing resources for students, school boards are obliged to engage expertise to help obtain the largest rebates possible while complying with regulations. In fact, the federal government has offered courses to boards to help deal with the complexity.

This is not about the federal government sending money to school boards; it is about stopping the claw-back of the support provided through provincial grants and federal transfer payments. It is illogical that school boards, as publicly funded – taxpayer funded institutions, should be paying the Goods and Services Tax.

All provincial governments share the desire to maintain the high quality of public education for which Canada is admired around the world. We believe that it is the intent of the federal government to support school boards in their pursuit of excellence. We call on the government to recognize the value of efficiency in ensuring that school boards across Canada can maximize the revenues that provincial taxpayers provide to support education.

I urge you to support Bill C-241, *An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (school authorities)* and await your timely response to this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Seward".

Shirley Seward,  
Chair of the Board

Cc Trustees and Student Trustees, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board  
Senior Staff, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board