



PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE SCHOOL DIVISION

"Dedicated to the Pursuit of Excellence"

May-26-16

Mr. Kevin Waugh
Member of Parliament
Saskatoon-Grasswood
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Waugh,

The board of Trustees of the Portage la Prairie School Division would like to submit this letter in support of Private Members' Bill C-241, an act to amend the Excise Tax Act (school authorities). We fully support the position of the Manitoba School Boards Association; specifically, that the GST rebate paid to school boards should be increased to 100%, from the current allocation of 68%.

Locally, the present rebate represents a double taxing of the communities in that property taxes, used to fund local school boards, are also used to pay the non-rebated portion of the taxes on goods and services. In Portage la Prairie School Division, this portion represents the costs of a new teacher in our system, each year.

School divisions cannot afford to waste valuable resources at a time when education is of such critical importance to our society. We feel that the passage of Bill C-241 would be an important step in preserving more resources for public schools, and would have a lasting impact on the lives of students.

Sincerely,

Murray McLenehan
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Portage la Prairie School Division

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