



**Saskatoon Public Schools**  
Inspiring Learning

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Barry MacDougall, Director of Education

May 11, 2016

Mr. Kevin Waugh, M.P., Saskatoon - Grasswood  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada  
K1A 0A6  
([kevin.waugh@parl.gc.ca](mailto:kevin.waugh@parl.gc.ca))

Dear Mr. Waugh,

On behalf of the Saskatoon Board of Education, I would like to express our full support for private member's bill C-241, which seeks to amend the Excise Tax Act to provide a 100 per cent refund for goods and services tax (GST) paid by school authorities.

In the 2014-15 fiscal year, our school division paid \$2,259,672 in GST and received a federal rebate of \$1,536,577. The remaining \$723,000 that wasn't refunded came out of the school division's reserve funds. To put it in perspective, this amount of money would pay for approximately nine full-time teachers. An increase in the rebate rate would have a significant impact on the programs and services we are able to provide to our more than 24,000 students.

As you know, Saskatoon Public Schools is the largest school division in Saskatchewan. Our comprehensive and innovative programming challenges our students and helps them to reach their potential. Receiving a complete GST rebate would help us meet the needs of our rapidly increasing student population. The diversity of our students is matched only by the variety of their needs, requiring our school division to provide a greater level of support and care for students than has ever been seen before. As a public school division, we are open to all and work to provide whatever is needed to help our students be successful and contributing members of our community. A full rebate of the GST would be of little notice in the federal government's finances but could have a significant impact in our students' lives.

We thank you for your continued support of public education in Canada.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ray Morrison, Chair, Saskatoon Board of Education

Copies to: Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister (Fax: 1-613-941-6900)  
Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
([ralph.goodale@parl.gc.ca](mailto:ralph.goodale@parl.gc.ca))  
Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance ([bill.morneau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:bill.morneau@parl.gc.ca))  
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