



Grand Erie District School Board

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March 9, 2018

Minister Indira Naidoo-Harris,
Minister of Education,
22nd Floor, Mowat Block,
900 Bay Street,
TORONTO, Ontario,
M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Indira Naidoo-Harris:

The Grand Erie District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) respectfully submits this letter in support of Bill 191. The Grand Erie DSB SEAC supports the necessity of recognizing the importance of the Ministry of Education amending the Education Act to ensure that all board staff are informed of the resulting permanent brain injury resulting from prenatal alcohol exposure (PAE). This life-long brain injury is therefore considered a neurodevelopmental disorder and is diagnosed under Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

The Grand Erie DSB SEAC passed the following motion at its March 8, 2018 meeting stating this letter be sent to you with copies sent to the Chair of each Ontario SEAC and all MPP's within our Board's jurisdiction. The Motion read as follows:

"We the SEAC of Grand Erie DSB hereby request and endorse that the honourable Minister Naidoo-Harris expeditiously bring Bill 191 forward for a second and third reading so as to amend the Education Act to require Ontario School Boards to recognize, accept and promote the understanding of diagnoses under FASD including but not limited to literature, informed practices for students impacted by PAE, changes in the IPRC processes, and for each Board to facilitate collaboration with local families as well as any local FASD Support Groups."

We look forward to this Government's continued commitment by serving as the first Ontario Government to recognize and promote awareness of FASD and to receiving news of the passing of Bill 191 to amend the Education Act before the end of the current parliamentary session.

Sincerely,

K. Smith, Chair
Grand Erie DSB SEAC

cc: Chairs of Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees
Hon. Michael Coteau, Minister of Children & Youth Services
Dave Levac, MPP Brant-Brantford
Toby Barrett, MPP Haldimand-Norfolk

SUCCESS for Every Student