



District School Board Ontario North East

Schumacher Board Office

Street Address

153 Croatia Avenue, Schumacher, ON P0N 1G0

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 1020, Timmins, ON P4N 7H7
705-360-1151

New Liskeard Board Office

198022 River Road

New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0

705-647-7394

January 20, 2020

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Lecce:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for the District School Board Ontario North East (DSB1), I would like to take this opportunity to respectfully address some concerns about the inactivity of the Ministry Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE).

MACSE plays an important role in advising the Minister of Education on any matter related to the establishment and provision of special education programs and services for students with special education needs, including the identification and provision of early intervention programs. The several vacancies on the council and the apparent lack of activity of the group raises the concern that the Ministry of Education is not benefiting from valuable input traditionally provided by MACSE.

The number of students with special education needs is on the rise across the province. As such, we feel that the role of MACSE has increased in importance. We urge the government to fill the vacancies on the council so it can resume its work.

Families in northern and rural communities, such as the ones that our Board serves, experience additional challenges. Our Board feels strongly that regional representation on MACSE is important to ensure the needs of all Ontarians are considered. One of our Trustees has extensive experience with special education and would be an excellent candidate to consider for a role on the council.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Brush".

Bob Brush
Chair of the Board

c: Guy Bourguin, MPP, Mushkegowuk - James Bay
Gilles Bisson, MPP, Timmins
John Vanthof, MPP, Timiskaming Cochrane
Chairs, Ontario Public School Boards Association
Board of Trustees, DSB1