



Ontario  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**STEVE CLARK, MPP**  
Leeds-Grenville

November 7, 2016

Jeff McMillan  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Upper Canada District School Board

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

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**OPEN LETTER REGARDING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ACCOMMODATION REVIEW PROCESS**

Dear Chair McMillan:

In the past several weeks, I've met with community and municipal representatives, parents and students from the schools recommended for closure through the Upper Canada board's accommodation review process.

Aside from the obvious concern about the future of their schools and the lack of public input prior to making recommendations for closures, the most significant issue I'm hearing about involves restricting the number of presentations at each public meeting of the Accommodation Review Committee.

It's disappointing the Upper Canada board would choose to stifle this critical opportunity for parents, municipal officials, the business sector and the general public to make a presentation at these meetings by limiting the number of delegations to just eight per session.

That's an unreasonable decision, given the impact this process will have on the educational opportunities and choices of thousands of students, as well as the negative consequences to the rural communities where many of these schools recommended for closure are located.

Parents and school communities have put their lives on hold and are working to respond to the board's *Building for the Future* staff report. It's an onerous task made even more difficult by the deeply flawed accommodation review process.

I'm disappointed the Upper Canada board has refused my request to put this process on hold. However, in deciding to proceed, I believe strongly that the board has a responsibility to hear from everyone who wishes to provide feedback in a public forum.

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- 2 -

I urge you to remove the restriction limiting public delegations to eight and ensure all voices are heard. Frankly, on a matter as important as this one, more meetings in more locations with more time for delegations should always be the default position of any public organization.

Thank you for your attention to my request and I look forward to a positive response at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "C".

Steve Clark, MPP  
Leeds-Grenville

CC: Hon. Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education