



Office of the Chair of the Board
December 1, 2014

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Mayor John Tory
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Tory:

I am writing to express our Board's concern with regards to the appointment process to the City of Toronto's Board of Health.

The composition of this committee requires the appointment of only one (1) elected school board representative from the two main boards of education – Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) and Toronto District School Board (TDSB). Given the vital communication link between school boards and the City, this seems woefully inadequate in light of recent community public health concerns involving outbreaks of SARS, H1N1 and Ebola.

We understand that the existence of the two largest publicly-funded school boards in Canada within the City of Toronto creates a challenge on how to provide fair and timely representation for both community-based organizations in carrying out the policy mandate of the Toronto Board of Health. However the school board position has been appointed to a TDSB representative for three successive terms. As a result, the Toronto Catholic District School Board has not been represented on the City of Toronto Board of Health for at least 12 years.

This is not acceptable to us. The TCDSB represents close to half-a-million ratepayers and responsible for over 92,000 students across 201 school sites. We believe this ongoing lack of representation on the Board of Health is an enormous disservice to this large constituency.

In the interest of public fairness, the TCDSB proposes two solutions:

- a) Representation be provided equally by extending Board of Health membership to each school board; or
- b) Retain the status-quo number, but alternate membership between the TCDSB and TDSB after each successive four-year term.

The first option is preferred as it maintains continuous involvement of both school boards which ensures optimal input and guidance on health issues and services that impact a significant number of families in the City of Toronto.

I would appreciate a written response as soon as possible, since the Board of Health application process is already underway for the next school board representative term ending on November 30, 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Del Grande".

Michael Del Grande
Chair of the Board

Copy to: Uli Watkiss, City Clerk ✓
Joe Mihevic, City Councillor