



March 24, 2026

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Sylwia Przewdziecki

RE: MM39.10 - Supporting the Role of Trustees in Maintaining an Accountable and Transparent Education System - by Councillor Rachel Chernos Lin, seconded by Councillor Amber Morley

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of City Council,

The Federation of North Toronto Residents Associations is a community organization representing over 35 resident associations in North Toronto and North York, and works to bring forward a coordinated and informed perspective on the City's land use and transportation issues affecting the neighbourhoods and the City.

We wish to express our strong support for the Members Motion:

- City Council express its support for the role of locally-elected trustees in ensuring accountability, representing local priorities and advocating for the needs of students.
- City Council request the Province of Ontario to first initiate a robust, province-wide consultation on school board governance models before considering any decision that would alter the governance role of trustees.
- City Council forward this item to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association, Rural Ontario Municipal Association and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, as well as Members of Provincial Parliament representing ridings in the City of Toronto.

As noted by the Motion, School Trustees have been "central to the operation of Ontario's schools since before confederacy, enshrining democratic representation as a key principle at the heart of our public education system". The appointment of provincial supervisors, supplanting the role of elected trustees, has lead to concerns among parents about the loss of transparency and accountability.

School trustees have existed in Ontario since 1816 and have long played an essential role in delivering accountability, reflecting local priorities and ensuring that

the students they represent are receiving the resources and education they need and deserve. In 2025, the Government of Ontario appointed supervisors to school boards across Ontario, including the Toronto District School Board and Toronto Catholic District School Board, supplanting the role of elected trustees in Ontario's public education system.

In addition, Bill 33, which received Royal Assent in November, 2025 grants the Province overriding authority over school boards – authority which they have signaled may be used to eliminate the role of trustees in Ontario's education system in part or in whole.

We urge City Council to support the Motion that the City of Toronto oppose the Province's overreach of school boards, and join with municipalities across Ontario in recognizing and reaffirming the importance of trustees to maintaining accountability, transparency and local representation for parents and students in the public education system.

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel

Geoff Kettel
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

c.c. Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods (Ontario)

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 250,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.