

October 31, 2024

The Honourable Jill Dunlop
Minister of Education
5th Floor, 438 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5



Dear Minister Dunlop,

Proposed SCDSB Capital Projects in the City of Barrie

As part of the 2024-25 Capital Priorities Program, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) submitted 11 proposed capital projects for consideration to the Ministry of Education on September 16, 2024. Of the 11 proposed projects, four are located within the City of Barrie, including:

- Priority #1 - Warnica PS replacement and growth accommodation
- Priority #6 - Emma King PS addition
- Priority #7 - Ardagh Bluffs PS addition
- Priority #10 - New Barrie SE elementary #2 (Hewitt's)

The City of Barrie strongly support these projects and respectfully request consideration from the Ministry of Education for this urgently needed infrastructure.

To provide further context of this need from a municipal perspective, Barrie is one of Canada's fastest growing municipalities. The City is working to grow its housing options, increase housing supply, and ensure sufficient infrastructure is in place to support growth. Barrie has prioritized and welcomed growth and development and is committed to continuous improvement.

In February 2023, the City of Barrie pledged to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to facilitate the construction of 23,000 housing units by 2031. By the end of 2023, the City had issued planning approvals for 14,641 housing units. Between January 1, 2023 and September 30, 2024, there have been 2,423 housing units started. In 2024, Barrie was once again rated #1 as the overall best municipality across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) for getting new housing developments approved. To support this unprecedented growth, the City's commitment, and the province's housing initiatives, infrastructure such as schools, is a vital and essential component in supporting these strategies.

The City of Barrie and the SCDSB have been working together to advance these projects. The projects are approaching design completion, pre-consultation meetings with municipal staff have already occurred, and site plan and building permit applications will be advancing accordingly. The City of Barrie commits to expediting the approval process for the noted projects if Ministry approvals are received, to ensure these projects can proceed immediately.

In closing, I would like to reiterate our support for these projects. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Alex Nuttall
Mayor, City of Barrie

c: Didem Proulx, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education
Jodi Lloyd, Chairperson, SCDSB
Board of Trustees, SCDSB

John Dance, Director of Education, SCDSB
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