



June 25, 2014

Premier Kathleen Wynne
Legislative Building, Room 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A1A1

Dear Hon. Kathleen Wynne;

Re: Call for a Formation of Small and Rural School Alliance

At the regular meeting of Council held on June 25, 2014, the Council of the Town of Penetanguishene passed a resolution which calls for a formation of Small and Rural School Alliance.

Please find enclosed a copy of the above noted resolution which indicates the call for support of this resolution from all small town and rural Ontario municipalities that face or have faced the possibility of school closures within their municipality and that these small town and rural Ontario municipalities jointly lobby for a moratorium on all school closures until such time that the administrative process on accommodation reviews is completed by the Provincial Government.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 705-549-7453 or gmarshall@penetanguishene.ca.

Most Sincerely,

Gerry Marshall, Mayor
Town of Penetanguishene

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Encl.

cc. Hon. Liz Sandals, Minister of Education
Hon. Jeff Leal, Minister of Rural Affairs
The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities
The Association of Ontario Small Urban Municipalities
MPP Garfield Dunlop
MP Bruce Stanton



Regular Meeting of Council
June 25, 2014

Moved By: Councillor Daryl O'Shea
Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Patrick Marion

WHEREAS Education is one of the largest assets that a municipality can provide to its residents in terms of offering quality of life and quality of community;

AND WHEREAS one of the challenges that small town and rural communities face are closures of both elementary and high schools in their communities;

AND WHEREAS the levels of Educational service and costs associated with said services are funded by the Province of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Government has not directly consulted nor communicated with small town rural Ontario municipalities being serviced by the School Boards in regards to school closures;

AND WHEREAS these potential closures are subject to an administrative School Board process called an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC);

AND WHEREAS there is lack of public trust in the Accommodation Review process as School Boards are not being held accountable for the recommendations of the ARC;

AND WHEREAS there is support from other small and rural municipalities to jointly lobby for a moratorium on all school closures until such time that the administrative process on accommodation reviews is completed by the Provincial Government;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Penetanguishene request the support of this resolution from all small town and rural Ontario municipalities that face or have faced the possibility of school closures within their municipalities;

AND THAT the Mayor is authorized to reach out to interested communities to form an alliance to approach the Provincial Government via the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Rural Affairs on this issue;

AND FURTHER THAT this joint effort request meetings with the Minister of Education and Minister of Rural Affairs at the upcoming Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference to represent all supporting municipalities to clearly and directly communicate to the Province the concerns with the policies of local School Boards in reference to ARC processes;

AND FURTHER THAT said municipalities are encouraged to forward letters in support of this resolution to the Premier, Minister of Education, Minister of Rural Affairs, the

Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation Northern Ontario Municipalities, the association of Ontario Small Urban Municipalities and local Members of Provincial Parliament;

AND FINALLY THAT this resolution be forwarded to the appropriate government agencies and communities as outlined within.

CARRIED.

Mayor Gerry Marshall