

June 10, 2009

### **Funding Peel board based on 'dramatically outdated' data is 'intolerable,' says chair**

Trustees of the Peel District School Board approved a budget of \$1.3 billion for the 2009-10 school year. This balanced budget is a \$49 million increase in provincial grants from last year.

"The real story about our budget is our per-student funding—the fourth lowest in the province. We are an indefensible \$838 per pupil less than the provincial average," said Janet McDougald, chair of the board.

"Simply put," McDougald says, "the province funds us quite sufficiently—if this were 1996. Because the funding allocations for some of the most major grants are based on the 1991 and 1996 census data. Now, I have to ask, has anyone driven around Peel in the last week? Does it look like it did in 1996? Or 1991? No, of course not. To fund us based on dramatically outdated data is intolerable."

McDougald explains that the Peel board is seeking immediate action from the Ministry of Education in three areas. "First, the province must use the current—2006—census data to allocate the demographic component of funding. Second, they need to fund the actual high needs students we serve as a board in special education. And third, they must revisit the early years grant funding to reflect our pre-school population."

The issue has become critical, McDougald says. "It's time, this fall, to talk to everyone we can, about this funding disparity. We will elicit all the support we can, involve anyone and everyone from our city councillors and school councils to community groups, media, unions and federations and our own MPPs to push for the funding our students deserve."

For more information about the Peel board budget, go to [www.peelschools.org](http://www.peelschools.org). For a complete copy of the budget, call 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2012.

-30-

**Media contact:** Janet McDougald, Chair, Peel District School Board, 905-278-1402

**Reference:** Sylvia Link, Manager of Communications, 905-890-1010/1-800-668-1146, ext. 2814, [sylvia.link@peelsb.com](mailto:sylvia.link@peelsb.com)

**Note to media:** [text of Janet McDougald's budget remarks](#)