

October 3, 2019

Capital Programs Branch
315 Front Street West, 15th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 0B8

Dear Sir or Madam,

RE: Proposal # 19-EDU002

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is the largest voluntary, general farm organization in Canada, representing over 37,000 farm families across Ontario. As a dynamic farmer-led organization based in Guelph, Ontario, OFA works to represent and champion the interests of Ontario farmers through government relations, farm policy recommendations, lobby efforts, community representation, media relations and more. OFA is the leading advocate and voice for Ontario farmers.

OFA is pleased to provide comments to the proposed amendments to Ontario Regulation 20/98 related to Education Development Charges.

An Education Development Charge (EDC) is a way for school boards to collect funds from growth-related development to purchase land for new schools and to pay for site work required to prepare to build the school. Specifically, EDCs may only be imposed if a schoolboard will need to acquire new school sites to accommodate increased student population resulting from new development.

Education development charges are only required when the residential population within a school district is increasing. Furthermore, education is a “people service”. Farmland and other businesses properties do not contribute to the school age population. For this reason, OFA recommends that Ontario Regulation 20/98 be amended to specify that Education Development Charges only be applied to the construction of residential buildings.

OFA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to Education Development Charges. I trust that our recommendation will be given due consideration in this consultation.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie
President

cc: OFA Board of Directors
Hon. Stephen Lecce, Ontario Minister of Education