

Ministry of Education

Minister

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Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

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Her Worship Sharron McMillan
Mayor
Municipality of Thames Centre
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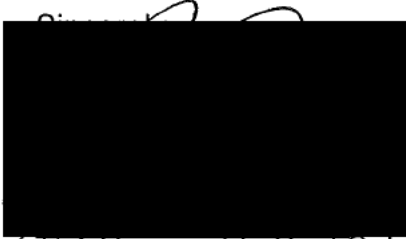
Dear Mayor McMillan,

Thank you for your letter dated February 14, 2025, regarding the Thames Valley District School Board's 2024-25 Capital Priorities Program submission for West Nissouri Public School in Thorndale.

As you are aware, each year, the ministry invites school boards to submit their priority capital projects for funding consideration through the ministry's Capital Priorities Program to address their highest priority capital needs. The ministry undertakes a detailed review of each business case and all submissions are evaluated using a number of criteria to determine funding priority, such as the timing and urgency of projects, current and forecasted enrolment and student capacities at schools within the surrounding area, the need to support French-language access, the school boards' existing inventory of capital projects, project readiness in quickly progressing from planning to construction, and overall funding available to the ministry.

This project was not approved for Capital Priorities funding as there are alternative options that could help address current or anticipated accommodation pressures. Thames Valley DSB received approval for three new schools through the 2024-25 Capital Priorities Program to create over 1,900 new elementary student spaces. The board has seven previously approved capital projects for new elementary schools where two new elementary schools are expected to be complete and open for September 2025 with capacity for over 1,600 new students. In addition, five new schools are planned or under construction to create nearly 3,100 elementary student spaces for future years. The ministry has encouraged the board to continue to monitor the need in this area and resubmit the project in future rounds of Capital Priorities Program if it remains a priority.

I encourage you to continue working with the board regarding the development of capital plans to support your community. Thank you again for taking the time to write.



The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Education