



**ONTARIO PUBLIC  
SCHOOL BOARDS'  
ASSOCIATION**

**Leading Education's Advocates**

**Ontario Public School Boards' Association**  
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Laurie French  
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November 30, 2016

David Thompson, Chair of the Board  
Near North District School Board  
963 Airport Road, PO Box 3110  
North Bay, ON P1B 8H1

Dear David,

Thank you so much for your time and hospitality during my visit to your board last week. The warm welcome and time dedicated to ensuring that I had a thorough insight into the challenges and successes that the Near North DSB is working through was much appreciated. I was struck by a number of key issues, and I'm glad that we have plans underway to support strategies in response to declining enrolment, capital planning and graduation rates.

My special thanks to you David and the staff and trustees who took the time to come out to meet me or spent time touring schools with me, in particular Trustee Micheline Beam, Director Jackie Young and Principals Sean Ruddy and Lisa O'Kane.

Sincerely,

Laurie French  
President,  
Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Copy: Jackie Young, Director of Education