



April 19, 2024

Matt Sammut, PSSC Chair
Moncton High School and Sunny Brae Middle School
matt.sammut@gmail.com

Matt Sammut:

Thank you for your correspondence dated March 19 and March 28, 2024, regarding an overcrowding issue at Moncton High School and several other schools in the Anglophone East School District.

As you have noted, our beautiful province is currently undergoing a rapid phase of growth, particularly in the Moncton area. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) is aware that this is putting pressure on our existing school space. Short-term solutions have been implemented at Moncton High School to alleviate the overcrowding issues such as mobile classrooms and washrooms. The school district is also in the process of implementing boundary changes to address these issues.

Long-term solutions are being implemented with the addition of two new K-12 schools in the Moncton High School catchment area. These two new school projects were deemed urgent and received funding in response to overcrowding at multiple schools in the area, including Shediac Cape School, Lou McNarin School, Lewisville Middle School and Moncton High School.

In recognition of this rapid enrolment growth, the Government of New Brunswick is committed to increasing the capital budget for education in the upcoming fiscal year and beyond. A new Shediac K-12 school, and a new Dieppe K-12 will allow the removal of modulars from the existing Moncton High School and allow it to operate with the intended enrolment. These two schools are scheduled to open in September 2027 and 2028 respectively. Please be assured that EECD staff will continue to work with school district staff to provide the best possible school environment for students.

Minister / Ministre

Education and Early Childhood Development / Éducation et Développement de la petite enfance

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Mental health is a core priority for EECD and each of our Anglophone school districts. New Brunswick has been focused on cultivating positive connections within schools and have worked to promote positive learning and working environments that meet the needs of the student population.

Mental health is a topic studied by all students through the personal wellness curriculum which spans grades 3 to 9. Schools in the Anglophone sector have been working with a new survey tool to help them check-in more regularly on youth mental health. In addition, school counsellors help provide school-wide support for positive mental health as well as individual support when needed.

While I appreciate the invitation to discuss these issues, regretfully, I will not be meeting with the PSSC. We are moving as quickly as possible to meet the needs of a growing population.

Once again, thank you for your correspondence and for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Hogan", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Hon. Bill Hogan

c.c. Premier Blaine M. Higgs
Hon. Ernie Steeves, Minister of Finance
Ryan Donaghy, Deputy Minister
Randolph MacLEAN, Superintendent, Anglophone East School District