

Perth Office
59 Lorne Avenue East, Unit A
Stratford, Ontario K5A 6S4
Tel: 519-273-1400
Fax: 519-273-9045



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

John Nater

Member of Parliament
Perth—Wellington

Ottawa Office
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-992-6124
Fax: 613-998-7902

Wellington Office
39 Elora Street South, Unit 1
Harriston, Ontario N0G 1Z0
Tel.: 519-338-3589
Fax.: 519-338-5615

Online
E-Mail: John.Nater@parl.gc.ca
Website: johnnater.ca

May 6, 2016

Mark Bailey
Chair of the Board Trustees
Upper Grand District School Board
500 Victoria Road North
Guelph, ON N1E 6K2
Mark.bailey@ugdsb.on.ca

Dear Mr. Bailey,

I am writing to you today concerning the Upper Grand District School Board's impending decision concerning French Immersion classes in my riding of Perth—Wellington.

In one of my many roles as a Parliamentarian, I serve as the Vice Chair of the Standing Committee on Official Languages. As such, I take a special interest in second language education.

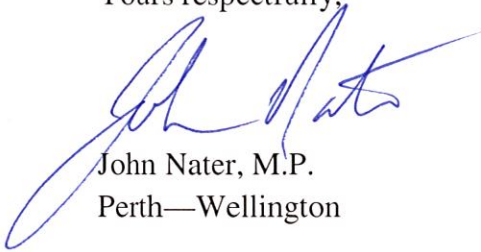
I would encourage the board to consider options other than capping admission at 25 students at Palmerston Public School. In an increasingly global world, the ability to communicate in more than one language is essential. Demand for French Immersion programming will only increase.

The federal government has recognized the importance of French language classes. Since 2013, the Government of Canada has contributed \$79 million annually to the Province of Ontario for Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction.

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I would encourage the Upper Grand District School Board to examine all options before making a decision.

Yours respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Nater', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Nater, M.P.
Perth—Wellington

cc. The Honourable Michael Chong, P.C. M.P.

cc. Concerned Community Members

cc. Town of Minto