



# YVAN BAKER, MPP

Etobicoke Centre

February 4, 2017

Dear residents of the Buttonwood community,

Buttonwood Hill Public School is a vital part of the neighbourhood, providing a home for Learning Jungle daycare and Leonardo Da Vinci Academy and offering important green space for community use.

**I've heard from many of you how important it is that we maintain this property for community use. I agree—we must keep the school in public hands and protect the services for children and families.**

Last May, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), which owns Buttonwood, held a consultation about the possibility of selling the property. **As a result of that consultation, it was determined by TDSB staff that the school would not be needed for TDSB programs and recommended that the property be declared surplus to the TDSB's needs.** In June however, the Board voted to keep the property.

Since then, the Toronto Catholic District School Board has indicated their need for a school in our community, as the other Catholic schools in our community are over capacity. Buttonwood would fill this need, as would another school property, Silver Creek.

The other site, Silver Creek, is currently used by Silver Creek Pre-School and Etobicoke Children's Centre, both of which provide services for children with special needs. Both of these organizations would have to move if Silver Creek was purchased by the Catholic Board, meaning a loss of vital services for thousands of the most vulnerable children in our community.

**Selling the Buttonwood property to the Catholic Board would:**

- **Keep the property in public hands for years to come and protect the services and green space for young children, students and families in the Buttonwood community;**
- **Keep the Learning Jungle where it is, as the Catholic Board has promised it will retain the daycare as a tenant; and**
- **Keep Leonardo Da Vinci Academy where it is until 2020, as the Catholic Board has committed to honouring their current lease.**

TDSB Trustee Chris Glover is holding a **meeting for residents about the potential sale this Monday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.** He will be meeting with parents of Leonardo Da Vinci Academy students at 5:30pm. **Both meetings will be held at Buttonwood School, 100 Allanhurst Drive.** I will be attending, as will Catholic Board Trustee Ann Andrachuk. I encourage you to attend as well and provide your input on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Yvan Baker  
MPP for Etobicoke Centre

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