

Doug Ford's cuts have already begun

OUR READERS WRITE

Please consider this an open letter to our M.P.P., Sylvia Jones.

Well, the cuts to education, by the Ford government, have begun with the elimination of over \$100 million of much needed dollars from the provincial funds supporting school repairs. Their timing is excruciating! July and August are the contractors' busiest time, with schools empty of students, to get these essential repairs completed.

That doesn't address the whole problem. This is impacting a number of local building projects in our Orangeville and Dufferin schools scheduled to be done this summer by the Upper Grand D.S.B. Capital/Renewal Team. This is particularly awkward because much of this work was integrated with other work being done at schools using renewal funding. Therefore it's not so easy to just cancel contractors' contracts related to greenhouse gas reduction work. Staff will meet later this week to begin to develop a plan to address this issue, which will likely mean diverting needed resources from other budget lines, a detrimental ripple effect throughout the system.

And who suffers? The KIDS! Parents are urged to remain vigilant about the impact to their local schools and their children's learning environment. If I know the Upper Grand leadership, they will do their utmost to shield our kids. However, that won't diminish the long term effect of delaying these needed repairs.

Bob Borden,

Retired Trustee and Chair, Upper Grand D.S.B.