



February 7, 2018

The Honourable Brian Kenny, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
P. O. Box 6000, Place 2000
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5H1

Dear Minister Kenny:

On behalf of PALS (Partners Assisting Local Schools) in Saint John, NB we are writing to petition the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to support the construction of a new K-8 school in the uptown area of Saint John, serving the neighbourhoods currently served by Prince Charles and St. John the Baptist-King Edward Schools.

PALS represents a group of over 150 business and community partners who support our local schools, particularly those that serve priority neighbourhoods. Support has been provided for the past 17 years in the form of volunteers, resources and opportunities for enrichment – levelling the playing field for children less fortunate.

The City of Saint John has been underserved when it comes to the construction of new schools. Until recently it had been over 40 years since a new school had been built in the City of Saint John.

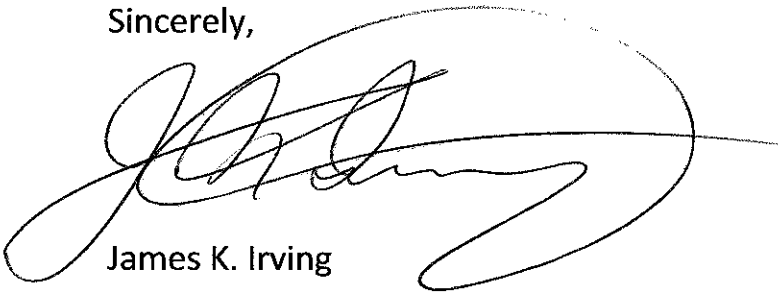
Our community was thrilled with the Provincial Government's announcement of the new school on the West Side, and the opening of Seaside Park Elementary was a boost to that community and to the entire school district.

This was a great start to providing facilities to replace those that are inadequate to meet the needs of our students, their families and the communities they serve. At PALS, we

support the building of a new school to serve two of these neighbourhoods in the southern peninsula of Saint John. Attached please find a list of companies and community groups who currently partner with the schools in the Saint John Education Centre.

Thank you, Minister Kenny, for your hard work on behalf of the children of our city. We know you will recognize the support of our community for this most important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Irving', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

James K. Irving

PALS and Community Partners – Saint John Education Centre

- Achieve Literacy
- Advocate Printing
- Al Gagnon Photography
- Anglophone South School District
- APEGNB (Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists) Saint John
- Atlantic Super Stores
- Atlantic Towing
- BASE Engineering
- Bay Ferries
- Bayview Credit Union
- BCAP
- Bee Me Kidz
- BellAliant
- Best Buy
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Boys & Girls Club
- Breakfast Clubs of Canada
- Breakfast for Learning
- Brunswick Pipeline/ Emera
- CAA
- Calvary Temple Church
- Camp Glenburn
- Canaport LNG
- Carleton Kirk United Church
- CBCL
- CFM
- The Chamber, Saint John Region
- Chandler Sales
- Chateau de Champlain
- City of Saint John
- City of Saint John Leisure Services
- City of Saint John, Office of the Common Clerk
- Cleves Source for Sports
- Co-op Stores
- Costco
- Courtney Bay Tenants Association
- Credit Counselling Services
- DealerMine
- Delta Saint John and McCor Management
- DFS Inc. Architecture & Design
- Dillon Consulting
- Downey Ford

HOW PARTNERSHIPS BENEFIT:

Students:

- Improved literacy rates
- Improved attendance
- Overall rise in academic achievement
- Students being exposed to possibilities beyond what they knew pre-partnership
- Increased pride in school, school spirit
- Sense of ownership and involvement
- Increase in feelings of self-esteem
- Sense of belonging in the community

Staff:

- Access to more resources - people, volunteers, materials,
- Sense of team - they don't feel they are in it alone
- Trust - it took time to build trust between schools, partners and the community. School staff couldn't quit and it meant so much when partners and volunteers decided they wouldn't quit!

Community:

- Parents more involved in their child's education
- Decrease in community problems: Example - calls re family disputes, vandalism, etc.
- Pride in their community school
- Improved engagement of both children and their families

Business:

- For business leaders, a PALS partnership is one of the most efficient and effective ways to contribute to real community change. These partnerships are making a significant and direct impact on the inner city poverty around them, and they have engaged the community to be part of that change.
- Employees return to work feeling positive and satisfied with their contribution.
- Employees enjoy sharing in the children's lives and appreciate the children's successes.
- Contributes to a sense of pride in the workplace.
- Aligns with corporate philanthropic mandates.

PALS and Community Partners – SJED Centre (continued)

- Lawson & Creamer
- Lions Club
- Living SJ
- Loch Lomond Villa
- Marathon By the Sea
- Mariner Partners
- Master Promotions
- McAllister Place
- McInnes Cooper
- Michaels
- Mitchell McConnell Insurance
- Point Lepreau Generating Station
- Port Saint John
- Portland United Church
- P.R.O. Kids
- Promise Partnership
- PRUDE
- QM Construction
- RBC Branches
- RiverCross Church
- Rockwood Park
- Rothesay Netherwood School
- Rotary Club
- Royal Hair Design
- Royal Kennebecasis Yacht Club
- RST Sunbury
- Saint John Airport
- Saint John Astronomy Club
- Saint John City Market
- Saint John City Transit
- Saint John Community Centres
- Saint John Energy
- Saint John Fire Department
- Saint John Milk Fund
- Saint John Neighbourhood Associations
- Saint John Police Department
- Saint John Riptide
- Saint John Sea Dogs
- Saint John Water
- Salesforce
- Salvation Army
- Saputo
- Scotiabank Branches
- Shimpokai Judo
- ShurFit Automotive
- Modibo Basketball School
- Morris Music
- NBCC
- NB Insurance Board
- NB Museum
- NB Southern Railway
- Nick Nicole Community Centre
- ONE Change
- Parkland Saint John
- Pathways to Education
- Plasticraft
- Sisters of Charity
- SJ Community Loan Fund
- SJ Community Newspaper
- Slocum + Ferris
- Sobeys Stores
- Stantec
- Staples
- St. Ann's Church
- St. Luke's Church
- St. Pius X Church
- Stewart McKelvey
- Stew's Cleaning Services
- Studio Dance School
- T4G
- T. D. Waterhouse
- T. S. Simms
- Tabufile
- Telegraph Journal/ Brunswick News
- Thandi's Restaurant
- The Learning Partnership
- Titus Bakery
- Town of Grand Bay-Westfield
- Turnbull Home
- UNB Saint John
- United Church Ministries
- United Way
- WalMart
- West Side Business Association
- Wyndham Worldwide Canada Inc.
- Xerox
- YMCA of Greater Saint John
- Y Service Club
- Youth Enhancement Program Inc
- 360 Stand