

Province pledges \$24 million for local school upgrades

By Julie Slack
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The halls were silent at Milton District Secondary School (MDHS) on Tuesday morning, but clapping and cheering quickly filled the void of students who are off on summer break.

Halton MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris dropped by the school to share the news that the Province is investing an additional \$24 million in Halton over the next two years to repair and renew local schools.

She also presented MDHS principal Kevin Caughlin with a certificate recognizing his retirement this year.

The funds Naidoo-Harris announced will ensure Halton schools are safe and modern places for students to learn.

The funding will enable local school boards to repair roofs, update HVAC units and mod-

ernize electrical and plumbing systems. It will also significantly improve the appearance of Halton schools by fixing and upgrading flooring, walls, ceilings, playing fields and more.

The repairs are expected to have a positive impact on students' ability to learn and on their overall well-being.

The Province is investing an additional \$19 million for a total of \$53 million to the Halton District School Board (HDSB) and an additional \$5 million for a total of \$18 million to the Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB).

"This is an investment in youth and they are the future of Ontario," said Naidoo-Harris, while Halton District School Board trustees clapped and cheered.

Naidoo-Harris said the money is coming now so that school boards can make repairs over the summer months.

"We're flowing this additional money right



Celebrating a funding announcement for repairs and renewals at local schools at Milton District High School on Tuesday were Principal Kevin Caughlin and Halton MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris, who also presented Caughlin with a certificate since he is retiring at the end of the school year.

Julie Slack / Canadian Champion

away so that over the summer, projects that need immediate repairs and upgrades, get that," she added.

The funds are part of an extra \$1.1-billion investment in school infrastructure across the province, which builds on existing funding that has been allocated for repairs and renewals over the next two school years, for a total of \$2.7 billion.

The school repair and renewal in Halton is part of the largest investment in public infrastructure in the province's history — close to \$160 billion over 12 years. The move supports 110,000 jobs every year across the province, with projects such as roads, bridges, transit systems, schools and hospitals.

"This extra funding is great news for students, staff and parents in Halton," Naidoo-Harris added. "The investment will renew and repair local schools and create better schools for better learning. This is an important step towards local student achievement and well-being, and is a boost for our local economy."

In a press release, Mitzi Hunter, Minister of Education said the province believes in better buildings for better learning.

"Investing in our schools is one of the most important infrastructure investments we can make for nearly two million students in Ontario," said Hunter. "Making sure schools across the province are in a state of good repair is an essential part of supporting student achievement."

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