



July 4, 2025

Honourable Minister Paul Calandra

Ministry of Education  
14th Floor, 315 Front Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 0B8

Dear Hon. Paul Calandra

In light of the recent increase in government control over the action of individual school boards, **we are writing to ask that the Ministry of Education-appointed supervisors take immediate action to protect students from being exposed to lead in school drinking water.**

Three of the school boards now overseen by your Ministry - the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and Toronto District School Board - reported the three highest numbers of lead exceedances among school boards in the province in 2023/24. A fourth, the Thames Valley District School Board, is also in the top ten.

Even at very low levels of exposure, lead can harm children's developing brains and cause life-altering health impacts, including:

- Decreased IQ
- Decreased attention span
- Motor skill weaknesses
- Behavioural problems

Ontario schools should be aiding in children's learning and development, not creating barriers to it.

Please find attached a recent report from the Canadian Environmental Law Association, which provides an analysis of school lead testing data and outlines school board and province-level opportunities for action.

**We encourage you to ensure that supervisors take immediate, meaningful and transparent action to get lead out of the schools that they oversee.** We cannot prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow if we refuse to protect their health today.

Sincerely,

Theresa McClenaghan  
Executive Director,  
Canadian Environmental Law Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. McClenaghan', enclosed in a rectangular box.

Julie Mutis  
Community Outreach Worker  
Canadian Environmental Law Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mutis', enclosed in a rectangular box.

**Canadian Environmental Law Association**

T 416 960-2284 • F 416 960-9392 • 130 Spadina Avenue, Suite 301 Toronto, Ontario, M5V 2L4 • [cela.ca](http://cela.ca)