

**Ministry of Education**

Capital Policy and Programs  
Branch  
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Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Direction des politiques et des  
programmes d'immobilisations  
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Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**2013: SB4**

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Superintendents of Plant  
School Business Officials  
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities

**FROM:** Nancy Whynot  
Director, Capital Programs Branch

**DATE:** **March 14, 2013**

**SUBJECT:** **Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) Terminates the Plans Review and Approval Program**

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The Ministry of Education was recently advised by the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) that, effective April 1, 2013, OFM approval will no longer be required for projects involving new construction, alterations and/or additions to elementary and secondary schools operated by school boards.

Attached is a communiqué from the OFM that provides background on the termination of the program. The OFM advises the following:

- Building plans already submitted for approval will not be reviewed and will be disposed of through secure shredding.
- The OFM will continue to be available for consultation on fire safety matters, but will undertake detailed review of plans only upon request by the Ministry of Education on a project specific basis.
- The OFM will collaborate with the Ministry of Education, Ontario Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) and the fire services in the development of a guideline to assist school boards in establishing priorities for fire safety upgrades in existing schools.

If you have questions about the termination of the OFM's Plans Review and Approval Program please contact Steven Mitchell, Capital Programs Branch, at (416) 325-2015 or [Steven.Mitchell@Ontario.ca](mailto:Steven.Mitchell@Ontario.ca)

Sincerely,

*Original signed by:*

Nancy Whynot  
Director,  
Capital Programs Branch

cc: Directors of Education