

## PUBLIC POLICY ROUNDUP Fall 2011

### Learning Disabilities Working Group

In June 2011 the Special Education Policy & Programs Unit of the Ministry of Education set up a **Learning Disabilities Working Group**, to provide expertise and share knowledge with the Ministry of Education in the area of LDs, in order to meet three key objectives:

- inform the development of Guidelines for Learning Disabilities;
- support the development of a repository of relevant resources on LD that will be available to school boards electronically; and
- inform the review of PPM 8, *Learning Disabilities*.

The Working Group held a teleconference in July and an initial meeting on September 7, 2011, and another meeting is scheduled for November. LDAO had called for the formation of such a group in its submissions to the Ministry of Education, and is pleased to be working with other knowledgeable people in the field to review and update policies and programs for students with learning disabilities.

### Apprenticeship Issues

The LDAO Legislation & Policy Committee, with the help of two new members from the college sector, drafted a [Policy Statement on Students with Learning Disabilities in Apprenticeship Programs](#), and submitted it in June 2011 to relevant personnel at the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) as well as to Colleges Ontario. Following this contact, and a subsequent meeting with MTCU, an Apprenticeship Symposium was set up by the College Committee on Disability Issues (CCDI) for November 3, 2011, to share effective practices and focus on *Universal Design for Instruction* approaches.

### Review of Social Assistance in Ontario

On November 30, 2010, the government announced the appointment of Frances Lankin and Munir A. Sheikh to lead a *Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario* ([www.socialassistancereview.ca/](http://www.socialassistancereview.ca/)), set up as part of the 2008 *Poverty Reduction Strategy*. The Commission released a Discussion Paper in the summer of 2011 and LDAO submitted a response ([LDAO Response to the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario](#)) on September 1, 2011. Feedback to the Discussion Paper is to inform the development of an Options Paper, scheduled to be released for comment by the Commission in December.

For copies of LDAO position papers and policy submissions, go to [www.ldao.ca/public-policy-advocacy/responses-and-letters/](http://www.ldao.ca/public-policy-advocacy/responses-and-letters/).