

# LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR

**June 2008**

Thank you to all SEAC reps and alternates for your hard work over the past school year. The following are some topics that your SEAC should be looking at this month. As usual action items will be underlined, and summarized at the end. Feel free to share any of this information or the attachments with other SEAC members. As always, when you are planning to introduce a motion for the consideration of SEAC, it is particularly important that you share all related background items with your fellow SEAC reps.

## **The topics covered by this SEAC Circular:**

1. Dedicated PA day
2. Consultations on Education for All
3. IEPs
4. Dispute Resolution Process
5. Character Development Initiative

## **List of Supplementary Materials:**

1. Dedicated PA Day Memo Apr 08
2. PAAC invitation to *Education for All* consultation
3. Comments on *Education for All* form
4. Dispute Resolution Key Messages (to follow)
5. Character Development Memo Apr 08

### **1. Dedicated PA day**

In early April the Ministry sent a memo to Directors of Education, cc'd to Chairs of SEAC, "strongly recommending" that one of the 6 professional development days in 2008- 2009 be related to special education. The Ministry is working on materials to provide to school boards to support a special education PA day, primarily focused on Shared Solutions. SEAC members should ask to be involved in the development of their board's PA day agenda.

## 2. Consultations on Education for All

Some of you will have had the opportunity to participate in the regional consultations on the revision and expansion of **Education for All, K -6** ([www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/reports/speced/panel/speced.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/reports/speced/panel/speced.pdf).)

PAAC on SEAC members have been invited to a special consultation on June 13<sup>th</sup>, so I am seeking the input of LDAO SEAC members before that meeting. I have attached the invitation letter to show you the format of the consultation, and a slightly revised version of the questions on a comment form that you can use to guide your input. Please e-mail or fax your comments to me by Thursday June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Education for All, K - !2** is scheduled for release in the fall of 2008, to be followed by regional training sessions in early 2009.

## 3. IEPs

The Ministry is planning to release Phase II of the Provincial IEP Template to educators in the fall. This version has been revised based on feedback on the PHASE I template released last fall. Parents have not been given access to the electronic template, but some may have seen the format if their board is using it in IEPs. One of the improvements we hope will be in the new version is a space for parent/student comments.

The Ministry is also working on professional development supports on IEPs for educators to be ready in early 2009. Meanwhile, LDAO and the parent associations on the Reference Committee continue to work on the online IEP resource program for parents and students.

## 4. Dispute Resolution Process

The Provincial Advisory Committee on Dispute Resolution met on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Committee members were updated on the increasing demand for presentations on **Shared Solutions**, and on the Ministry plans to develop an electronic resource. LDAO SEAC reps are asked to report to LDAO on the types of inservicing their boards are doing on *Shared Solutions*.

The time period for the piloting of formal dispute resolution processes in 6 school boards has been extended, to give more time for evaluation. Parents who participate in the pilots will be surveyed to find out detailed information on the issues they are facing.

## 5. Character Development Initiative

The Character Development Initiative was launched in November 2006 with a symposium and a draft framework document, **Finding Common Ground**.

In January 2007 and again in January 2008, all school boards received funding to support character development implementation or build upon existing character development initiatives. This funding was allocated to support:

- Community consultation and engagement processes
- Professional development
- Student engagement
- Data collection
- Analysis of current practices

Boards have been asked to submit a single page Action Report on the actions that they have taken to support their 2007-08 character development initiatives (the form is attached to the Character Development memo). This is to be submitted to the Ministry by June 30, 2008.

While the Character Development Initiative is not specifically a special education project, it is an initiative that can have a strong impact on students with special education needs. SEACs who are not already providing input into the Character Development projects of their boards should ask for the opportunity to do so. SEACs should also ask for a copy of the 2007-08 Action Report submitted to the Ministry.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- SEAC members should ask to be involved in the development of their board's Special Education PA day agenda.
- LDAO SEAC reps are asked to provide comments and suggestions on *Education for All K – 6*, by **Thursday June 12<sup>th</sup>**, using the attached comment form.
- LDAO SEAC reps are asked to report to LDAO on the types of inservicing their boards are doing on *Shared Solutions*, e.g. a list of events and the type of audience.
- SEACs who are not already providing input into the Character Development projects of their boards should ask for the opportunity to do so.
- SEACs should ask for their board for a copy of the 2007-08 Action Report on Character Development initiatives that will be submitted to the Ministry.

#### **Questions?**

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