

KEY MESSAGES

Meeting of the *Provincial Advisory Committee on Formal Dispute Resolution Regarding Special Education Programs and Services* June 12-13, 2007

- The *Provincial Advisory Committee on Formal Dispute Resolution Regarding Special Education Programs and Services* (the “Committee”) had its third meeting on June 12 and 13, 2007.
- Members heard a presentation on the circle of conflict and triangles of satisfied interests, two conceptual tools that address the root causes and categorize different types of conflict. Another presentation outlined various interventions that exist under the umbrella of restorative justice processes (RJP).
- Members further explored materials describing dispute resolution approaches in place in the U.S., Manitoba, and at the Ministry of Children and Youth Services in Ontario. Through this exercise, members were able to begin framing a range of process options directly relevant to special education programs and services issues for Ontario.
- The Committee also considered key questions relative to the design and evaluation of dispute resolution pilot projects across the province.
- The following items will be on the agenda at the Committee’s next meeting, scheduled for July 16 and 17, 2007:
 - Members will have an opportunity for further consideration of the scope of issues to be included on a revised list of typical causes of conflict and issues relating to special education programs and services before the next meeting, and again at the July meeting.
 - Members will continue their discussions on the development of a continuum of dispute resolution processes and the framework for pilot projects.

KEY MESSAGES

Meeting of the *Provincial Advisory Committee on Formal Dispute Resolution Regarding Special Education Programs and Services* July 16-17, 2007

- The *Provincial Advisory Committee on Formal Dispute Resolution Regarding Special Education Programs and Services* (the “Committee”) held its fourth meeting on July 16 and 17, 2007.
- Members heard a presentation from Dr. Carol Campbell, Chief Research Officer at the Ministry of Education. Dr. Campbell highlighted the key steps in the evaluation process and guided members through the development of a logic model for the pilot project on formal dispute resolution regarding special education programs and services.
- A representative from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services’ Child Welfare Secretariat, Sylvia Novak, talked about the history and the structure of the ADR Service Delivery Program as part of the Child Welfare Transformation Agenda, and shared early lessons from the implementation phase of the program.
- Regarding the pilot project framework, members discussed the importance of school boards having a carefully stepped process and communications protocol for addressing special education conflicts and disputes.
- Members considered the credentialing of dispute resolution specialists. They discussed how these specialists could be utilized in special education program and service disputes.
- Members are continuing to develop a glossary of terms pertinent to dispute resolution in the area of special education. It is felt that this will contribute to the development of a common language province-wide.
- The Committee’s next meeting will take place on September 19 and 20, 2007, in Toronto.