

Ministry of Education

Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

Édifce Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



October 8, 2015

Dear Chair,

It is my sincere pleasure to be writing to you about implementing the first settlements to be reached under the new *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act*.

As you know, this is a tremendous achievement for all parties, and like you, I am eager to get down to business delivering on our commitments, and advancing the goals of Ontario's renewed vision for education, *Achieving Excellence*.

Our first order of business is to act on the commitment of an additional Professional Activity (PA) day for all teachers represented by Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA); and l'association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO).

The additional PA day for OSSTF, OECTA and AEFO is an excellent example of collective bargaining supporting the renewed vision for education in Ontario.

Cultivating and continuously developing a high-quality teaching profession is a core commitment of *Achieving Excellence*, and a key component of the mission statement. Now, by way of an additional PA day, it will also be woven into the fabric of the school year, to the benefit of all teachers represented by OSSTF, OECTA and AEFO, and the students whom they serve.

Accommodating the additional PA day will require immediate attention. As work gets underway to support these revisions, the ministry will be moving quickly to ensure that the required regulatory amendments will be made, and will provide the support necessary for the boards to ensure that the new mandatory PA day dedicated to provincial education priorities, will be incorporated into the 2015-16 school year calendar.

In closing, I want to thank you for your hard work and leadership, and commend the principals, vice-principals and senior board staff within your school board for being pillars of stability for students and parents.

I look forward to continuing to work with you as we implement the settlements we have reached thus far, and those we will reach in the future. In doing so, we will be helping to move Ontario's publicly funded education system from great to excellent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Sandals". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Liz" being more prominent than the last name "Sandals".

Liz Sandals
Minister

- c. Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario
Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association
Ontario Public School Boards' Association