

# Minister's Advisory Council On Special Education

Annual Report

For the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2023

**Ministry of Education**

Minister's Advisory Council  
on Special Education  
315 Front Street West, 12F  
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Conseil consultatif ministériel de  
l'éducation de l'enfance en difficulté  
315, rue Front Ouest , 12 étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 0B8

April 10, 2023

The Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education  
438 University Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Lecce,

Please accept the attached Annual Report on the activities of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (the Council) for the fiscal year 2022-2023.

The Council meets up to three times each year, a potential June 2022 meeting was cancelled due to the election of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Assembly of Ontario. During our two meetings, the Council participated in discussions and offered advice related to several areas that affect students with special education needs. We also appreciate that during your 46 months as Minister you have made 29 appointments or re-appointments to the Council. We note, however, that there are now 10 vacancies (as of April 8, 2023) among the 20 voting members of MACSE and stakeholders continue to be restive about the number of vacancies and particularly those seats vacant for long periods. We urge you to fill them, and future vacancies, as quickly as possible.

We look forward to continuing our work with you and ministry staff to support the special education needs of students in Ontario.

Yours sincerely,

Peggy Blair  
Chair

c: Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education  
Clayton La Touche, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education

## **Mandate and Structure of the Council**

The Council advises the Minister of Education on any matter related to the establishment and provision of special education programs and services for exceptional students, including the identification and provision of early intervention programs for students with special education needs.

The Advisory Committee on Special Education was established in 1974 and has been renewed continually from that date. Its name was later changed to the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE). The Council:

- responds to proposals or positions of the Ministry of Education or other ministries, as submitted to the council, from time to time;
- identifies concerns in the delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional pupils and provides information, advice and recommendations for ministry consideration; and
- meets up to three times a year for a maximum of 4½ days per year.

MACSE's membership includes the following representation:

- one seat for each of nine exceptionalities;
- one seat for each of nine educator and professional categories;
- one seat for students/youth;
- one seat for Indigenous communities;
- one non-voting seat for the Ministry of Colleges and Universities;
- one non-voting seat for the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services;
- one non-voting seat for the Ministry of Health; and
- two representatives each for the Francophone and Roman Catholic communities, appointed from among the members above.

Representatives of a constituency on the Council are normally appointed for an initial term of up to three years and may be re-appointed for combined service of up to six years. When directed by the Minister's office, the ministry will issue a call for applications to organizations with an interest in special education in the areas related to existing and/or upcoming vacancies. Individuals who wish to be considered are required to apply through the Public Appointment Secretariat (PAS), which then provides the application profiles to the ministry. The applications are then reviewed, and qualified candidates submitted for the Minister's decision.

## **Changes to MACSE Membership**

The following new members joined the Council:

- Lawrence Barns (Learning Disability) on March 30, 2022
- Bruce Yu (Students/Youth) on February 8, 2023

The following members retired/resigned from the Council:

- Stacey Manzerolle (Gifted) on November 18, 2022
- Gary Pieters (Principals) on March 31, 2023
- Ben Smith (Students/Youth) on October 4, 2022

The membership of MACSE as of March 31, 2023, is provided in Appendix I.

## **Activities in 2022-2023**

MACSE's mandate is to advise the Minister of Education on matters related to the establishment and provision of special education programs and services for students with special education needs. In 2022-2023, the Council participated in discussions and offered advice related to several areas that affect students with special education needs:

- Ontario Human Rights Commission Right to Read Report
- Early Reading Screening
- Education and Community Partnership Program (ECP) Review
- Education Equity
- Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Update
- Ontario Autism Program
- PPM 167: Online Learning Graduation requirement
- Provincial School for the Blind / Alternative Education Resources for Ontario (AERO)
- School Based Rehabilitation Services
- Specialized Mental Health Supports
- Student Achievement: Curriculum, De-Streaming, Tutoring
- Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System
- Supporting Inclusion in Child Care and Early Years Settings

Members of the Council also engage their constituencies and bring information forward about successes, challenges, effective practices, and suggestions to the Council through the standing agenda item on Community Collaboration. The information brought forward by MACSE members informs the policy and operational work of the ministry.

### **Priorities for 2023-2024**

In 2023-2024, the Council will continue to advise the Minister on priorities.

MACSE will also respond to ad-hoc requests for advice to the Ministry of Education, as well as other ministries and agencies of the government. We will continue to work with ministry staff to ensure that advice is provided in a timely fashion to support the ongoing policy and operational work of the government.

Council members will also continue to undertake outreach to their constituencies to gather information about effective practices, challenges, opportunities, and suggestions in advance of each Council meeting.

### **Expenditure in 2022-2023**

Members of MACSE serve as unpaid volunteers. Meetings have been held virtually, limiting costs for the period to translation and accessibility compliance of documents. Total expenditure in 2022-2023 was \$5,978.54.

## Appendix I

### Members of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education March 31, 2023

<b>Sectors Represented</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term Expiry</b>
Chair	Peggy Blair	March 31, 2025
Immediate Past Chair	Joe Trovato	March 31, 2025
<b>Exceptionalities</b>		
Autism	Vacant	
Behavioural	Vacant	
Blind and Low Vision	Kerrie St. Jean	February 7, 2026
Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Vacant	
Developmental Disability	Domenic Gentilini	March 29, 2025
Giftedness	Vacant	
Learning Disability	Lawrence Barns	October 3, 2024
Multiple Exceptionalities	Michael Jacques	February 7, 2026
Physical Disability	Vacant	
<b>Educator Groups</b>		
Educational Assistants	Patricia Sky	April 7, 2024
Principals	Gary Pieters	March 31, 2023
Teachers	Katheryne Hoffschmidt	April 7, 2024
Supervisory Officers	Vacant	
Trustees	Vacant	
<b>Support Professionals</b>		
Medical	Anne Kawamura	August 16, 2024
Psychologists	Vacant	
Social Workers	Lorie Laroche	April 7, 2024
Speech and Language Pathologists	Leah Brighton	April 7, 2024
<b>Other</b>		
Indigenous Communities	Judy Carter	April 7, 2023
Students/Youth	Bruce Yu	February 7, 2025