

Ministry of Education

Minister's Advisory Council
on Special Education
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Ministère de l'Éducation

Conseil consultatif ministériel de l'éducation
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MEMORANDUM TO: Selected Organizations with an Interest in Special Education

FROM: David Moore
Council Secretary

DATE: January 16, 2020

SUBJECT: Call for Applications to the
Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)

The Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) has provided valuable advice to the Minister of Education on matters concerning special education policy and programs since 1977. The Council now consists of members appointed by the Minister including:

- 18 members that represent an exceptionality (e.g. developmental disabilities, giftedness), or a profession (e.g., teachers, social workers);
- one member that represents students and youth;
- one member that represents an Indigenous community/organization; and
- three non-voting members representing Ministries with a key role for students with special needs.

Of these appointed members, two are also selected as representatives of the Francophone community and two are selected as representatives of the Roman Catholic community.

At this time, I am writing to invite your organization to encourage individuals to apply who would be interested in representing one of the communities of interest on MACSE.

Candidates may be members of your association, of another association serving the same exceptionality or professional group, or they may be individuals who have wide ranging contacts with others within your community of interest and who can represent those interests on the Council. We particularly welcome applications from persons with an identifiable exceptionality and who use, or once used, special education programs and services, or parents of such a pupil.

The communities of interest for which the Ministry is currently seeking applications, for a term of up to three years commencing in early 2020, are as follows:

Exceptionalities

- Behaviour
- Deaf / Hard-of-Hearing
- Learning Disabilities
- Developmental Disability
- Physical

Professionals & Other Communities

- Educational Assistants
- Indigenous Communities
- Social Workers
- Speech and Language Pathologists
- Teachers

The Ministry of Education is seeking candidates with significant knowledge and experience in special education. To maintain a balanced membership on the Council, the Ministry is seeking candidates with a diverse range of knowledge, backgrounds and experience, including:

- cultural and linguistic minority groups;
- persons with disabilities;
- French language communities;
- First Nation, Métis and Inuit community/organizations;
- diverse gender identities;
- all regions of the province;
- urban and rural perspectives;
- public and Catholic school representation; and
- elementary and/or secondary school experience.

Members of Council are expected to reach out to all organizations in their sector to provide advice that best represents the views of the community. In making appointments, the Minister will consider the breadth of support for the nominated individual from within the community to be represented.

Please share this request with individuals who may be interested in representing a specific community of interest as soon as possible. All applications must be made through the on-line application process of the Public Appointments Secretariat. For more information, please visit the [Public Appointments Secretariat website](#).

The following attachments provide information on the appointment process and background on the structure and mandate of MACSE. Please note that final decisions regarding membership rest with the Minister of Education. While applications are accepted by the Public Appointments Secretariat on an ongoing basis, applications received by March 6, 2020, will be considered for this call for applications.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information. I may be reached at macse@Ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

David Moore
Council Secretary

Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education
Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education?

Since 1977 the Advisory Council on Special Education (and its precursor, the Advisory Committee on Special Education) have provided advice to the Minister on matters concerning the development and delivery of programs and services for exceptional pupils in Ontario elementary and secondary schools.

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

The Council will:

1. respond to proposals or positions of the Ministry of Education or other ministries as submitted to the Council from time to time;
2. identify concerns in the delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional pupils and provide information, advice and recommendations for consideration;
3. submit an annual report that includes the following:
 - the Council's priorities and a plan for achieving them;
 - an analysis of the achievement of the previous year's priorities;
 - recommendations to the Minister.
4. meet up to 3 times a year for a maximum of 4 ½ days per year.

How does the appointment process work?

The Minister appoints 20 voting members to the Council. Each member represents a community of interest, such as an exceptionality or a professional category. A list of the communities of interest represented on the Council is included below.

What if several organizations serve the same exceptionality or professional group?

For most of the exceptionalities or professional categories there are a number of organizations which represent the interests of persons in the community. In identifying persons who are willing to serve as council members, please try to confer with other organizations which serve the same community of interest.

Who may apply?

Individuals with an interest in special education in Ontario may apply to serve on the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education, whether or not they are affiliated with an organization.

Candidates may be members of your association, of another association serving the same exceptionality or professional group, or they may be individuals who have wide ranging contacts with others within your community of interest and who can represent those interests on the Council. We particularly welcome applications from consumers who represent the exceptionalities.

I have applied for the Council in the past but was not selected. Can I apply again?

Each year, the Public Appointments Secretariat accepts new applications for the Council. The final selection is decided by the Minister of Education. The fact that a candidate was not appointed in the past does not mean there is no likelihood of future selection. A range of applications is desirable to provide the Minister with several qualified candidates in each community.

What factors will be considered in making appointments?

In making appointments, the Minister will seek candidates with knowledge of special education. In addition, the Minister is seeking candidates with a wide range of background experiences to maintain a balanced membership representing:

- all regions of the province;
- cultural and linguistic minority groups;
- diverse gender identities;
- urban and rural perspectives;
- public and Catholic schools; and
- elementary and secondary education.

Each representative will be selected with multiple criteria in mind.

How are the interests of Francophones and Roman Catholics served?

Two of the members of the Council, in addition to representing their exceptionality or profession, act as representatives of the Franco-Ontarian community. Also, two members of the Council, in addition to representing their exceptionality or profession, act as representatives of the Roman Catholic community.

How are the interests of students and Indigenous communities served?

One position on the Council is reserved for a representative of students and youth. One position is reserved for a representative of a First Nation, Métis or Inuit community.

What is the term of the appointments?

Appointments to the Council will normally be for a three-year period. Members will be eligible for reappointment to one or more subsequent terms up to a total of six years of service.

What is the time commitment required of members?

Council meets three times each year with meetings typically held in February, June, and October. These meetings normally span two days. Council may also strike working groups. Any working group meeting scheduled between regular Council meetings are held by teleconference. The Chair and selected members of the Council meet from time to time with the Minister or senior government officials. In addition, Council members are sometimes asked to assist in special work groups and consultations with the Ministry of Education or other Ministries.

Members are expected to liaise with all organizations within their community of interest. The commitment required to accomplish this responsibility will vary considerably among members depending on the number of organizations and the complexity of issues. Contact should be made prior to each regular meeting of the Council in order to determine issues which should be raised. Following each Council meeting, members should report on the meeting to the organizations in their community of interest.

Are expenses covered?

While there is no remuneration for Council members, reasonable expenses for travel, accommodation and meals are reimbursed in accordance with the government policies.

How are applications submitted?

All applications must be made through the Public Appointments Secretariat. For more information, please visit the [Public Appointments Secretariat website](#).

Is there a deadline for applications?

Applications are accepted by the Public Appointments Secretariat on an ongoing basis, but applications received by **Friday, March 6, 2020**, will be considered for the call for applications issued on January 16, 2020.

How may I get more information?

If you have questions about the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education please contact David Moore, Secretary to the Council, by e-mail at macse@ontario.ca.

Background information on the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)

MACSE originated in 1977 as the Minister's Advisory Committee on Special Education and was reconstituted as a Council in 1986 by Order in Council.

MACSE currently has 20 voting members appointed by the Minister of Education.

Voting members include: representatives of exceptionality constituencies, related support professions such as psychologists and social workers; trustees and educator groups; one member representing students/youth; and, one member representing Indigenous communities. Roman Catholic and Francophone representation is also assured.

MACSE includes one non-voting member from each of the Ministry of Health (MOH); the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU).

MACSE 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 needs.

In particular, the Council: responds to policy proposals or positions of the Ministry of Education or other Ministries; identifies concerns and successful practices in the delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional pupils and provides information, advice, and recommendations for Ministry consideration; and submits an annual report and recommendations to the Minister.

MACSE usually meets in February, June and October of each year.

Members of the Council are appointed by the Minister of Education. The Council's Chair and Vice-Chair are appointed by the Minister from among the voting members.

No remuneration is provided to members of Council or to the Chair and Vice-Chair; however, the Ministry reimburses travel, accommodation, and meal expenses of members in accordance with government policy. The Secretary of the Council is a member of staff of the Ministry of Education.

Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education

Membership Categories

Exceptionalities
1. Autism
2. Behaviour
3. Blind / Low Vision
4. Deaf/Hard of Hearing
5. Developmental Disability
6. Gifted
7. Learning Disabilities
8. Multiple Exceptionalities
9. Physical Disability
Professional Categories
10. Educational Assistants
11. Medical Practitioners
12. Principals
13. Psychologists
14. Social Workers
15. Speech and Language Pathologists
16. Supervisory Officers
17. Teachers
18. Trustees
Other
19. Student / Youth
20. Indigenous Communities