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MEMORANDUM TO: School Board Directors of Education

FROM: George Zegarac
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Education

DATE: December 10, 2014

SUBJECT: An Adult Education Strategy for Ontario

The Ministry of Education is seeking the participation and support of your school board as we move forward with the development and implementation of a provincial Adult Education Strategy. The strategy is an exciting initiative that will foster the commitment made by the ministry in its renewed vision for education to better support adult learners in their efforts to finish high school and successfully transition to postsecondary education, training or the workplace.

The scope of the strategy

The key goal of the strategy is to improve the educational outcomes of adult learners. It seeks to foster a shared responsibility for adult education within a jurisdiction by furthering school board collaboration and regional school board partnerships to more efficiently and effectively provide learners with a range of programs and services.

To better address the multiple needs and aspirations of adult learners, the strategy promotes sustainable system innovation and flexible modes of delivery. A continuum of learner pathways and transitions planning will support learners in achieving their goals for further education and training or employment.

Provincial consultation and next steps

Our first step in this initiative is to engage school board representatives in regional consultations to announce the adult education strategy, discuss key elements of the strategy and how to fulfill its objectives. The Minister of Education, the Honourable Liz Sandals, and the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education, MPP Grant Crack, will lead these consultations, scheduled to take place in January/February 2015.

Following our discussions, we will seek submissions from regional partnerships of school boards on strategies for implementation of the initiative in each region. During the first year, the ministry will encourage and support partnership formation and development, the identification of gaps and opportunities within each region, and the preparation of a regional strategic plan for phased implementation over the subsequent two to three years.

I invite you to share this information with senior administration with responsibility for Adult and Continuing Education within your school board. If your board does not offer Adult Education programs your participation in the consultation is nevertheless important. Please forward the names and contact information for up to three individuals who will best represent your board in the consultation process to Angelika Kerr, Senior Policy Advisor at angelika.kerr@ontario.ca by **December 19, 2014**. The date and time for the consultation in your area will be communicated to you shortly.

Background

A provincial Adult Education Strategy supports the commitment made in *Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario* to cultivate an education system that is responsive, high quality, accessible and integrated from early learning and child care to adult education.

The strategy addresses issues raised in *Ontario Learns: Strengthening our Adult Education System*. Specifically, it will address the need for clear learner pathways that take adult learners on the shortest and most effective route to their goal, and the need to improve transitions between adult education programs, postsecondary education, training and the workplace.

Informed by the *Deloitte Adult and Continuing Education Business Model Review*, and research conducted by the ministry and by school boards, the strategy strives for a more coordinated and accessible approach to the delivery of Adult and Continuing Education programs and services that address the diverse needs and goals of adult learners.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

George Zegarac
Deputy Minister

CC:

Mary Jean Gallagher, Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Achievement Division
Janine Griffore, Assistant Deputy Minister, French-Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division

Pauline McNaughton, Director (A), Student Success/Learning to 18 Strategic Policy Branch

Denys Giguère, Director, French-Language Education Policy and Programs Branch

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