

## Public Policy Roundup

### **Building the Next Phase in Ontario's Education Strategy –“Great to Excellent”**

The Ministry of Education is undertaking a wide consultation with stakeholders about the future of education in Ontario. A large provincial consultation was held on September 19, 2013 in Toronto, with participants from many different sectors, and there will be regional and community consultations. In addition, individuals may give online feedback to a set of seven questions probing topics such as the skills, knowledge and characteristics students will need in the future, and how to keep students engaged, foster their curiosity and creativity, and instill a love of life-long learning. The changing roles of technology and of teachers in classrooms figured highly in the discussions at the provincial consultation. [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/about/excellent.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/about/excellent.html)

### **Supporting Minds: An Educator's Guide to Promoting Students' Mental Health and Well-being**

As one part of the provincial Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, the Ministry of Education has developed a K-12 resource guide to provide educators with information on the early signs of mental health and addiction problems, along with strategies that can be used in the classroom to support students. The draft guide is available on the website, [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/reports/health.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/reports/health.html), along with an e-mail address for feedback. LDAO is very pleased that the draft document is now available, and will be preparing a response with suggestions for changes and additions.

### **AODA Issues**

On September 10, 2013, the Ontario Government announced that it has appointed Mayo Moran to conduct a mandatory Independent Review of the implementation and effectiveness of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. Mayo Moran is the Dean of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. The AODA Alliance had been pressing the government to set up this review, and also to develop an Education Accessibility Standard. The Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) wrote the Ontario Government on September 3, 2013 to support the development and enactment of an Education Accessibility Standard, joining the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations in calling for this standard.