

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation



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May 17, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretary-Treasurers and Supervisory Officers
of School Authorities
Director of Provincial Schools Branch
Superintendents of Schools
Superintendent of Centre Jules-Léger

FROM: Philip Steenkamp
Deputy Minister (A)

RE: Report of the Reference Group on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

On March 1, 2007 you received information regarding the Ministry of Education response to the Report of the Reference Group on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). As you are aware, the government has committed to address immediately over half of the recommendations of the reference group. The purpose of this memo is to provide more specific information regarding this response plus Ministry resources and training available to boards in support of it.

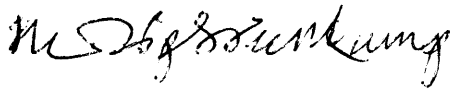
Attached is a Policy and Program Memorandum (PPM) on Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA). In addition, we will be sending hard copies of "Making A Difference: From Evidence to Action, a Report of the Ministers' Autism Spectrum Disorders Reference Group", for distribution to all members of Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs) as well as relevant board personnel. Copies of this memo and the report will also be provided to all schools in the province.

In addition to the PPM and the Reference Group Report, an ASD Resource Guide will be released in June. Board and school team training will also be provided to complement the many successful practices in boards across the province in support of the wide range of needs of students with ASD.

As soon as dates can be confirmed, board teams will be invited to attend this Spring, one-day regional training sessions designed to clarify the expectations articulated in the PPM on ABA. In addition, regional training sessions for school teams will be offered this Summer for staff directly serving students with ASD. Funds will be available in the Fall for Boards to continue to build their capacity to use ABA methods in support of students with ASD.

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Once again may I express my thanks for your continued support for the more than 7800 students identified with ASD across the province. The resources and training introduced above are designed to complement the many effective educational practices you already employ to meet the wide range of needs of students with ASD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Steenkamp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Philip Steenkamp

Attachments

- cc Principals of Elementary Schools
- Principals of Secondary Schools
- Principals of Provincial and Demonstration Schools
- Principals of Section 68 Schools