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TO: Principals of Elementary Schools
Principals of Secondary Schools
Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers of School Authorities

FROM: Sandra Pupatello
Education Minister

DATE: September 13, 2006

SUBJECT: *Bullying Prevention Pamphlets for Parents of Elementary and Secondary Students*

Every student has the right to feel safe and be safe in school and on school grounds. Quite simply, our kids learn better when they feel safe. The government has a comprehensive Safe Schools Strategy that includes a bullying-prevention program in every school, training for principals, and a partnership with Kids Help Phone.

But we know that the government can't do it alone. We need to work with our all education partners, including parents. Research shows that there is a positive relationship between parental involvement and student achievement. So, as part of our Safe Schools Strategy, we have developed this bullying-prevention pamphlet for parents. There are sufficient copies of this pamphlet enclosed for each family in the school.

The pamphlet is a valuable resource for parents who would like to better understand problems related to bullying. The pamphlet describes different forms of bullying: how parents can spot the signs of bullying, tips on dealing with a child that is being bullied or bullying others, and ways for a child to get help outside the school.

We are asking you to help us distribute these pamphlets on bullying prevention to parents at your school. Principals can choose the method of distribution that best suits the needs of their school community. For example, schools could send the pamphlets home with students, hold a parent information session focused on bullying prevention and school safety, or send the pamphlet with an existing back-to-school package or school newsletter.

The pamphlets can also be posted on your school's or school board's website. This could provide an opportunity to discuss the pamphlet with both your School Council and Safe Schools Team, and to develop a local strategy for distribution.

I would also like to draw your attention to the back page of each pamphlet. There is a space for schools to add a sticker or stamp to personalize the pamphlet. The sticker could include the school's address and logo, or the school's initiatives related to bullying prevention and school safety.

In addition to this resource, Kids Help Phone has produced bullying-prevention materials to help you inform your students about this confidential and anonymous professional counselling service. Samples of this free material and an order form for more will be sent to schools in the near future. You can refer your students to Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868 or via the Internet at www.kidshelpphone.ca.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Together, we can help Ontario's students feel safe at school and make schools safer places to learn.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Pupatello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandra Pupatello
Minister of Education