

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretary-Treasurers and Supervisory Officers of School Authorities

FROM: George Zegarac
Assistant Deputy Minister
Strategic Planning and Elementary/Secondary Programs Division

DATE: January 26, 2007

SUBJECT: **Adult Education Programs Inventory Project**

Ontario Learns – Strengthening Our Adult Education System was released by Kathleen Wynne in 2005. It focussed on basic literacy and numeracy programs, English / French as a second language, newcomer settlement and citizenship preparation, adult Native language instruction, continuing education programs, and programs for adults to gain their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Ontario Learns identifies the following components of an effective system:

- access to information, assessment and referral services;
- recognition of prior learning and credentials; and
- links between adult education and the workplace.

The Minister of Education recently announced an investment of \$2 million to make it easier for learners to navigate the adult education system, upgrade their knowledge and skills and reach their full potential. As one part of this investment, the Ministry of Education has asked the Ontario Association of Adult & Continuing Education School Board Administrators (CESBA) to develop a comprehensive inventory of programs for adults delivered by English and French Language School Boards and School Authorities throughout the province.

Among other objectives, this initiative will result in a consistent description of the types of programs available for adult learners in every school board in Ontario and provide information to support the development of a provincial adult education policy framework.

In order to complete this task, each School Board and School Authority will be asked to supply the required information using a program inventory tool. A team of field consultants from CESBA will be contacting key personnel within your School Board early in February to set up face-to-face interviews. We anticipate completion of the information collection process by the end of March 2007 and compilation and dissemination of the information by early summer.

This project will help us to move forward on identifying and streamlining adult learner pathways available from the array of available program options (e.g., classroom instruction, correspondence courses, distance learning and elearning).

If you require further information, please contact Felicity Burr, Senior Policy Analyst, Ministry of Education, Adult Education Unit by email at felicity.burr@ontario.ca or by telephone (416) 326-5996; Brenda King, Executive Director, CESBA by email at bbking@cesba.com or by telephone at (613) 652-1595; Tony da Silva, Project Coordinator, CESBA by email at anthonydasilva@rogers.com or by telephone (905) 459-7089.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Zegarac". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

George Zegarac

cc: Director, Field Services Branch
Regional Managers