



# Ontario

**Ministry  
of Education**

**Ministère  
de l'Éducation**

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**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education  
Superintendents of Provincial Schools  
Principals of School Authorities

**FROM:** Gerry Townsend  
Regional Manager

**DATE:** September 25, 2006

**SUBJECT:** **Curriculum Review**  
**Regional Focus Group Sessions**  
**The Arts Grades 1-8 and Grades 9-12**

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Year 4 of the Curriculum Review process began this September. As you know, the review process for each discipline includes consultation through stakeholder information sessions and focus groups.

We are currently working in partnership with the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch of the Ministry of Education to organize one-day focus group sessions in October and November 2006 for representatives from school boards, school authorities, and provincial schools. The purpose of these sessions is to gather input for the review of The Arts, Grades 1 to 8 and The Arts, Grades 9 to 12 curriculum policy documents from teachers, principals and board-level staff. Focus group sessions will be conducted for this subject area designated for review in the 2006-2007 school year. The Arts, Grades 1 to 8 and The Arts, Grades 9 to 12 will be combined in one focus group session.

For The Arts, Grades 1 to 12 Focus Group Session, district school boards are invited to send twelve (12) representatives with experience in these subject areas to the session. We are asking boards to ensure that participants be selected as follows:

- Four (4) elementary teachers – 1 primary, 1 junior, 2 Grades 7/8, e.g., representing Dance, Drama, Music, and Visual Arts
- Five (5) secondary classroom teachers – e.g., representing 1 Dance, 1 Dramatic Arts, 1 Media Arts, 1 Music, 1 Visual Arts
- Three (3) board representatives – e.g., consultant/coordinator/principal with expertise in the arts at the elementary and secondary level.

School Authorities and Provincial schools are invited to send one representative to each of the focus group sessions.

Please note that participants are to be prepared to discuss the strengths of the current curriculum policy documents, to identify potential areas for improvement and to comment on how a specific change may impact on the curriculum. Board representatives may wish to consult with their colleagues prior to coming to the session by asking the following questions:

- 1. What are the strengths of the curriculum? Why?**
- 2. Are there specific areas that need improvement? If so, what are they?**
- 3. What impact, if any, would a specific proposed change have on the curriculum? For example, what needs to be considered within the grade? Within the discipline? Across other disciplines?**

The London Regional Office schedule of focus sessions is as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject Discipline</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Participating</b>
Wednesday, November 1	The Arts, Gr. 1-8 The Arts, Gr. 9-12	Chandelier Place Reception & Conference Centre 660 Barton Street Stoney Creek, Ontario 1-905-643-4291	Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic DSB DSB Niagara Grand Erie DSB Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic DSB Hamilton-Wentworth DSB Niagara Catholic DSB Waterloo Catholic DSB Waterloo Region DSB Kidsability Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre Provincial Schools
Tuesday, November 7	The Arts, Gr. 1-8 The Arts, Gr. 9-12	Best Western Stoneridge Inn 6675 Burtwhistle Lane Highways 401 & 4 1-888-471-2378	Avon Maitland DSB Greater Essex County DSB Huron Perth Catholic DSB Lambton Kent DSB London District Catholic SB St. Clair Catholic DSB Thames Valley DSB Windsor-Essex Catholic DSB John McGivney Children's Centre Provincial Schools

All London Region Focus group sessions will begin at 9:00 a.m. Coffee and a continental breakfast will be available starting at 8:30 a.m.

## **Registration**

The Registration Form for this focus group is attached. Please enter the names of your participants on the form and forward the participant list electronically to the Education Officers noted below. Please ensure that the header of the form with board name, location of the session, and date are completed for each of the forms. Please return the registration form no later than **October 13, 2006.**

## **Expense Claim Information**

The Ministry will pay the expenses of the participants within Ministry expense guidelines:

- Car transportation expenses @ \$0.40/kilometre
- Supply teacher coverage costs, for classroom teacher team members only, at the board's daily occasional teacher rate
- Accommodation for participants who must travel over 200 kilometres return trip
- Meal expenses for only those participants who required overnight accommodation (\$20.00 - dinner)

Each school board must then submit a *signed, original board invoice* and itemized **Expense Claim** (template attached). Please attach a copy of all receipts to the school board invoice. Please forward these forms to Marg Curto or Johanne Lapensee-Crimmins, Education Officers, in the London Regional Office no later than **November 30, 2006.**

If you have any questions regarding any of the above information, please contact Marg Curto or Johanne Lapensee-Crimmins, Education Officers at 1-800-265-4221 or 1-519-667-1440, extensions 240 and 252 respectively.

In this important curriculum review process we greatly value the input of district school boards, provincial schools and school authorities. We appreciate your participation.

Sincerely

*Original signed by*

Gerry Townsend  
Regional Manager  
London Regional Office

cc: Sue Durst



