

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

FROM: Elizabeth Harding
Director
Policy and Program Branch

DATE: August 16, 2007

RE: *OTF E-learning Module and Teacher Training on Bullying Prevention*

I am writing to provide you with details on the government's partnership with the Ontario Teachers' Federation on teacher training on bullying prevention and encourage you to facilitate your teachers' participation in this valuable training opportunity.

The Ontario government believes that safety is a precondition for student achievement and that bullying and violent behaviour are never acceptable in Ontario's schools or communities. On June 4th, the *Education Amendment Act (Progressive Discipline and School Safety, 2007)* received unanimous consent. One of the key amendments added bullying to the list of infractions for which suspension must be considered.

Eliminating bullying requires a concerted, multi-pronged approach. Principals' and vice-principals' training on bullying prevention is underway. Bullying prevention is about the creation of safe school climates and this training opportunity offers teachers effective tools to build positive safe classroom environments.

Teacher Training

Teacher training on bullying prevention was announced on February 23, 2007 for the 2007-08 school year (<http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GPOE/2007/02/23/c3853.html?lmatch=&lang=e.html>). The training is being delivered in partnership with the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) and its affiliates, l'Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO), Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO), Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) and Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF). More details about this training will be made available at the beginning of the 2007-08 school year.

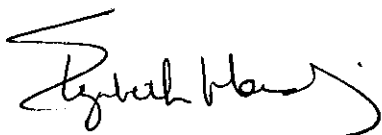
The teachers training workshops on bullying prevention will be offered by each respective affiliate, in conjunction with school boards and local associations. For some affiliates, this is a new workshop being added to their professional development calendar for the upcoming school year, while others have structured the training around existing workshops currently being offered. OTF will also be offering 18 teacher training workshops in addition to the aforementioned workshops.

E-Learning Module

In order to complement the above workshops, a comprehensive e-learning module, funded by the Ministry of Education has been developed for all schools by OTF. It is designed to be flexible to fit the professional development plans of both teachers and boards. The e-learning module will be available in French and English for all schools starting in September 2007. A core team of teachers at each elementary and secondary school will be offered this training in the fall of 2007. The e-learning module will be available on CD-ROM and further supported by a dedicated website, Safe@School, <http://www.safeatschool.ca/index.php?q=en/home> . This website was launched in June 2007. The e-learning module has release time associated with it so that core teams of teachers at each school can have time to work with the content during the school day.

The e-learning module provides current information on a wide range of topics including the latest research and best practice on preventing bullying and identifying appropriate intervention strategies. OTF will be coordinating the release time through school boards. If you have any questions about the e-learning module, please contact Lindy Amato, Ontario Teachers' Federation, lindy.amato@otffeo.on.ca (416) 966-3424.

We look forward to working on the Safe Schools Strategy in cooperation with your board.



Elizabeth Harding

c.c. Barry Pervin, ADM (A), Instruction and Leadership Development Division
Kit Rankin, Director, Field Services
Managers of Regional Offices