

Ministry of Education

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

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Queens Park
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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities
Director of the Provincial Schools Branch
Supervisory Officer of Centre Jules-Léger

FROM: Avis E. Glaze
Chief Student Achievement Officer/CEO, The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat

George Zegarac
ADM, Strategic Planning and Elementary/Secondary Programs Division

Dominic Giroux
ADM, French Language Education and Educational Operations Division

DATE: January 16, 2007

SUBJECT: **Establishment of the Provincial Character Development Resource Teams**

**Funding for Finding Common Ground:
*Character Development in Ontario Schools, K– 12***

At the *Finding Common Ground: Character Development in Ontario School, K – 12* Symposium held in October, 2006, the Ministry of Education announced that all publicly funded school boards in Ontario will implement a Character Development Initiative during the 2007 – 2008 school year. Many boards have already developed and implemented programs which address aspects of character development. For these boards, the Character Development Initiative will provide an opportunity to add depth to existing programs, and to take academic achievement, character development and civic engagement to new levels.

The roles and responsibilities that the Ministry of Education, boards, schools, teachers, all board and school staff, and students will play in making this initiative a reality are outlined in the Discussion Paper, posted at www.edu.gov.on.ca. We are pleased to announce the support and funding for this initiative.

Provincial Character Development Resource Teams

Eight character development resource teams have been established across the province. Five teams will support English public boards, one team will support English Catholic boards, one team will support French Catholic boards and one team will support French public boards. Team leaders

are school board leaders with experience in the implementation and extension of character development programs.

These leaders will be contacting the boards assigned to them directly. We encourage you to take advantage of their expertise and of this opportunity to work together as board learning communities.

North Eastern Boards: Leader: *Lucia Reece, Superintendent, Algoma DSB*

- Algoma District School Board
- District School Board of Ontario North East
- Rainbow District School Board
- Near North District School Board

North Western Boards: Leaders: *Janet Wilkinson, Director; Larry Hope, Superintendent, Keewatin-Patricia DSB*

- Keewatin-Patricia District School Board
- Rainy River District School Board
- Lakehead District School Board
- Superior-Greenstone District School Board

Eastern Boards: Leader: *Gina Camerano, Principal, Upper Canada DSB*

- Upper Canada District School Board
- Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board
- Limestone District School Board
- Ottawa Carleton District School Board
- Renfrew County District School Board

Central Boards: Leader: *MaryEllen French, Vice-Principal, Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB*

- Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board
- Durham District School Board
- Trillium Lakelands District School Board
- Simcoe County District School Board

Southern Boards: Leader: *John Havercroft, Superintendent, York Region DSB*

- York Region District School Board
- Avon Maitland District School Board
- Bluewater District School Board
- District School Board of Niagara
- Grand Erie District School Board
- Greater Essex District School Board
- Halton District School Board
- Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
- Lambton Kent District School Board
- Peel District School Board
- Thames Valley District School Board
- Toronto District School Board
- Upper Grand District School Board
- Waterloo Region District School Board

NOTE: English Public School Authorities will be assigned to Resource Teams following consultation.

Catholic Boards: Leader: *Patrick Cureton, Director, Bruce-Grey Catholic DSB*

- All Catholic District School Boards and Catholic School Authorities

French Catholic Boards: Leader: *Bernard Lavallée, Directeur de l'éducation, Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud*

- All French Catholic boards and French Language School Authorities

French Public Boards : Leader: *Suzanne Moncion, Surintendante, Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario*

- All French public boards

Funding for the Character Development Initiative

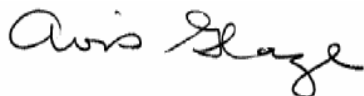
We are making funding available to boards to initiate or build upon their existing character development initiatives. This funding is to support:

- A process of community consultation and engagement
- Professional development
- Increased student engagement
- Data collection and analysis of current practices

By June 30, 2007, boards are asked to provide the attached single page feedback on the actions being taken to support the early stages of the outreach and engagement process. This information will greatly assist us in future planning, resource allocation and decision making.

We recognize that educators across the province have always been committed to the development of the character of their students. This is not new. We look forward to working together with you as you intentionally and purposefully implement the Character Development Initiative.

Sincerely,



Avis Glaze



George Zegarac



Dominic Giroux

CC: EDU Assistant Deputy Ministers
EDU Field Services Branch Director
EDU Region Office Managers
CAPPB Directors
FLEPP Directors
LNS Student Achievement Officers
CODE Executive Director
CODELF Secretary
OPC Executive Director
CPCO Executive Director
ADFO Executive Director
OSSTF General Secretary

ETFO General Secretaries
OECTA General Secretaries
AEFO General Secretaries
FESFO Director
OSSSA Director
OPSBA President
ACEPO Director
OCSTA Director
AFOCSC Director
Provincial Character Development Resource
Team Leaders

Finding Common Ground: Character Development in Ontario Schools, K – 12

Early Stage Action Report

Name of School Board/School Authority:

Director of Education:

Supervisory Officer of the School Authority:

Telephone:

Email Address:

Name of Board Contact:

Title:

Telephone:

Email Address:

1. How have you engaged students, educators and community members in establishing or expanding your character development initiative?

2. What are your next steps in utilizing the insights you have gained from this process to further develop or expand your character development initiative?

Person Completing Form:

Date:

Director's Signature:

Please return to Lorraine Gruzuk, lorraine.gruzuk@ontario.ca at The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat by June 30, 2007.