

Ministry of Education

Thunder Bay Regional Office
Ontario Government Building
435 James Street South Suite 336
Thunder Bay ON P7E 6S9
Telephone: (807) 475-1571
INWATS 1-800-465-5020
FAX: (807) 475-1550

Ministère de l'Éducation

Bureau régional de Thunder Bay
Édifice du gouvernement de l'Ontario
435, rue James sud bureau 336
Thunder Bay ON P7E 6S9
Téléphone : (807) 475-1571
INWATS: 1-800-465-5020
TÉLÉCOPIEUR: (807) 475-1550



MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education of:
Lakehead DSB, Superior-Greenstone DSB, Superior North Catholic
DSB, Thunder Bay Catholic DSB
Secretary-Treasurers & Supervisory Officers of:
Caramat DSAB, Collins DSAB, Nakina DSAB, Northern DSAB

FROM: Carlana Lindeman

DATE: October 16, 2006

SUBJECT: **Curriculum Review –The Arts
Regional Focus Group Session-Thunder Bay
Thursday, November 23, 2006**

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 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 1-8 and The Arts, Grades 9 to 12 will be combined in one focus group session.

For The Arts, Grades 1 – 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 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?**

Detailed information regarding the specific date, times and location of the Arts, Grades 1-8 and Grades 9-12 Focus Group Session is included in the chart below. The Focus Group registration form and the Expense claim template are attached.

CURRICULUM REVIEW –*The Arts*- FOCUS GROUP SESSION – Thunder Bay

Focus Group Session for the Arts-Grades 1-8 and 9-12
<p>Date: Thursday, November 23, 2006</p> <p>Times: 8:30-9:00 am - Registration and continental breakfast 9:00 am-3:30 pm - Session</p> <p>Location: <i>Valhalla Inn, 1 Valhalla Inn Road, Thunder Bay, ON</i></p>

Expense Claim Information

The Ministry will reimburse participants for the cost of:

- Travel (at the rate of \$.41 per kilometre)
- Hotel accommodation if necessary (for participants travelling 200 kilometres or more return trip)
- For those requiring accommodation, one supper meal for each night of accommodation (\$20.00/meal). Breakfast and lunch will be provided during the training for all participants.
- Supply teacher coverage, where required to cover classroom teachers, is at the board's per diem rate.

Participants are to book and pay for their own accommodations/meals and then submit all bills to their own board for reimbursement. Each 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 Pat Rose, Education Officer, in the Thunder Bay Regional Office as soon as possible or by **December 22, 2006**.

For questions or further information please contact Pat Rose, Education Officer responsible for the sustaining quality curriculum initiative at this regional office at (807) 475-1308 or 1-800-465-5020, extension 1308 or by email pat.rose@edu.gov.on.ca or by fax to (807) 475-1550.

We value the input from school boards and school authorities and thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Carlana Lindeman
Regional Manager

cc: Sue Durst