

**Ministry of Education**

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**Ministère de l'Éducation**

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

**FROM:** Dominic Giroux  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
French-Language and Education and  
Educational Operations Division  
Ministry of Education and  
Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

George Zegarac  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Strategic Planning and Elementary/Secondary  
Programs Division  
Ministry of Education

**DATE:** April 7, 2008

**SUBJECT:** **French as a Second Language Programs**

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We are pleased to inform you of an organizational realignment that will enhance the support and delivery of French-as-a-Second Language (FSL) programs in Ontario's elementary and secondary schools.

Recognizing the importance of second and even third language skills in today's society and to increase the competitiveness of Ontario's workforce, the ministry is rationalizing how FSL education policy and programs are developed and supported at the provincial level. As a result, the Field Services Branch (FSB) of the French-Language Education and Educational Operations Division (FLEEOD) took the lead for FSL policies and programs on April 1, 2008. Staff formerly in the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch assigned to this file have been transferred under the leadership of Mercédès Gagnon, a manager in the FSB. Mercédès is an experienced educator with a strong background in FSL.

The FSB will work closely with the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch and increase synergies with the French Language Education Policy and Programs Branch which now supports both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, to ensure that FSL instruction best meets the needs of Ontario's students.

The Minister of Education has committed to ensuring that students have access to enhanced FSL programs and courses and will undertake the following initial steps:

- Consult with key stakeholders in spring 2008 to identify needs and possible future directions;
- Work with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to expand capacity in FSL teacher education;
- Review elementary/secondary FSL curriculum policy; and
- Examine current funding and accountability for FSL programs.

This work will build upon the announcement made on February 27, 2008 by the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, the Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs and the Minister of Education, of a \$20 million expansion of York University's Glendon Campus to become a Centre of Excellence for French-Language and Bilingual Postsecondary Education.

Should you have any questions, please contact your local Regional Office.

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Dominic Giroux

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George Zegarac

- c. Assistant Deputy Ministers, EDU  
Kit Rankin, Director, Field Services Branch  
Sue Durst, Director, Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch  
Regional Managers  
Betty Gormley, Executive Director, Canadian Parents for French (Ontario)  
Steve Marshall, Deputy Minister of Education  
Lucille Roch, Deputy Minister of Francophone Affairs  
Philip Steenkamp, Deputy Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities  
Heads of bilingual universities  
Raymond Théberge, Director General, Council of Ministers of Education, Canada  
Graham Fraser, Federal Commissioner of Official Languages  
Hubert Lussier, Director General, Official Languages Support Programs, Canadian Heritage  
François Boileau, Ontario's French-Language Services Commissioner