

Ministry of Education

Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



April 16, 2014

Dear Chair,

Last week, I was very pleased to release our renewed vision for Ontario's education system, [Achieving Excellence](#). During the consultations I attended across the province and in discussions with many of you over recent months, I heard about the need for stronger partnerships and meaningful collaboration. That is why, as we implement the renewed vision, we will make efforts to strengthen our partnership.

Some of you have raised the issue that the number of ministry-sponsored events can, at times, make it challenging for boards to focus on school priorities. Since we heard this feedback from our partners, we have been working to improve the process.

I can now confirm that we are streamlining the event processes involving our education and childhood development partners and that, for the remainder of this school year, ministry program areas have committed to specific actions to reduce or consolidate events, and to use other mechanisms to provide more options for attendance. You will find a list of the adjustments for the remainder of 2013-14 in the attached appendix.

In considering longer-term approaches for the 2014-15 school year and beyond, the ministry will return to a previous practice of not scheduling any events on Mondays to free that day for school board planning. In addition, we have established a cross-ministry planning committee, consisting of directors and assistant deputy ministers from implementation-focused program areas, to provide recommendations for more systemic improvements to support the implementation of *Achieving Excellence*.

This committee has been tasked with producing a consolidated event calendar highlighting major professional development events for the coming school year. The calendar will be shared with our partners before June to support planning and alignment.

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Deputy Minister George Zegarac has asked CODE to participate in our improvement efforts and we also welcome your individual ideas and suggestions for more focused, aligned and coherent approaches to capacity-building events. In the coming months, we will also work with you on EPO funding and reporting processes.

I look forward to our continued work together to support student achievement and well-being.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Sandals". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Liz" being more prominent and the last name "Sandals" written in a similar style.

Liz Sandals
Minister

Attachment

- c: Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques
Council of Ontario Directors of Education
Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association
Ontario Public School Boards' Association