

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister

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Sous-ministre

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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: George Zegarac
Deputy Minister

DATE: April 16, 2014

SUBJECT: Ministry Events Reduction and Coordination

I am writing to update you on the commitment I made at the CODE CEO/CFO conference on January 23, 2014, regarding progress on streamlining ministry event processes involving our education and childhood development partners.

Over the past several months Directors of Education have made it clear that the number of ministry-sponsored events is becoming an impediment to focusing on board and school priorities.

As you know, we have recently launched a renewed vision for education, *Achieving Excellence*. One of the overarching themes you will have seen in this document is the emphasis on partnerships and working together to create the healthy learning environments in which positive change can occur for our students and staff. As we make this new vision a reality, it is important that we build more strategic focus, alignment and coherence around ministry events with the sector. As I indicated at the CEO/CFO conference, the ministry is committed to a set of short and long-term actions for improvement.

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, with particular attention to:

- Collaboration and consultation with education partners
- Aligning ministry events with capacity-building priorities arising from the new vision
- Options for consolidating or clustering professional learning activities around high-profile events
- Alternative formats to face-to-face meetings where appropriate
- Communicating where attendance is optional/flexible, and differentiating according to diverse needs
- Building more capacity in the ministry for 21st century learning formats.

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.

I have asked CODE to participate in our improvement efforts and 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.

In our recent vision consultations, we heard about the need for stronger partnerships and meaningful collaboration to accelerate progress and innovation in the system. We look forward to working closely with you in the coming months to continue improving our event and implementation processes.

Sincerely,



George Zegarac
Deputy Minister

Attachment

c: Assistant Deputy Ministers, Ministry of Education
CODE