

**Ministry of Education**

Minister

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Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

Édifice Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



April 28, 2014

Dear Federations and Associations,

I am writing today to thank you for your contributions to the *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014*. As you know, the act was passed by the legislature on April 8, 2014, received Royal Assent on April 9, 2014 and was proclaimed to be in force on April 24, 2014. The act is in now full effect and I know you are all preparing for the next round of negotiations.

Working with you to develop an improved legal bargaining framework in time for the coming negotiations was a clear priority of our government. Your input and support in drafting the legislation and informing amendments has helped us transform collective bargaining in Ontario's education system.

Without your help we would not have been able to develop and improve the act to create a labour framework which we believe will provide an improved and more effective structure for the coming and successive rounds of collective bargaining.

A lot of work has gone into developing, refining and passing the act, but we certainly cannot stop now. Further consultations and planning are needed to establish the configuration of central table bargaining, which will be followed by negotiations to determine the central-local "split" of bargaining issues. Then, a very challenging round of bargaining lies ahead of us all.

Ministry officials will be in touch with you shortly to arrange a time for the parties to come together to discuss procedural and timing issues related to our collective next steps under the new provincial labour framework created by the *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014*.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to maintaining an open dialogue as we work together to advance student achievement and well-being.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Sandals". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Liz Sandals  
Minister