

**Ministry of Education**

Minister

Mowat Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

Édifce Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



April 5, 2017

Dear Colleague,

Each year during the first week of May, we celebrate Education Week. It's a time to recognize the great things happening in Ontario's education sector, with a different theme every year.

This year, we also mark another significant milestone – both Canada's and Ontario's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As a result, I'm pleased to announce that the theme of this year's Education Week will be [Ontario150](#).

From May 1-5, 2017, let's take the time to recognize the contributions of students, parents, teachers and education workers as we mark Ontario's anniversary and look forward to another 150 years of excellence in education.

The Ontario150 celebrations are also an important opportunity to move ahead on our journey of reconciliation together with Indigenous peoples in Ontario. Schools provide an essential space to enhance understanding of our shared history and to build our collective future. At this time, we can reflect on the meaning of reconciliation and our commitment to building relationships based on trust, understanding and respect.

To mark this anniversary, Ontario is supporting events and programs that showcase our diverse communities and encourage Ontarians to get involved. Many of [these initiatives](#) focus on engaging youth, and are a great way to get your school community to participate.

Our government has also created many resources to help communities celebrate and reflect throughout the year. One of those resources is a song called *A Place to Stand*. Sheet music and lyrics in both English and French have been shared with school boards across the province so schools can create their own version of the song.

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**ONTARIO  
150**

We want to show Ontario how our schools are celebrating! So, during Education Week we will be profiling creative performances of *A Place to Stand* on social media. Please have your schools share their version of the song on Twitter or Facebook using #Ontario150. Or, they can send them directly to us by contacting Wendy World at [wendy.world@ontario.ca](mailto:wendy.world@ontario.ca) or Anne Shephard at [anne.shephard@ontario.ca](mailto:anne.shephard@ontario.ca).

Ontario's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary is an exciting time to reflect on the qualities and values that have defined us since Confederation. And Education Week is the perfect opportunity to celebrate that together in Ontario's schools.

I wish you all an excellent Education Week and look forward to seeing how your school will mark this milestone in our province's history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH' with a stylized flourish.

Mitzie Hunter, MBA  
Minister