

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

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**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education  
Secretary-Treasurers and Supervisory Officers of School  
Authorities  
Principals of Secondary Schools  
Principals of First Nation Secondary Schools

**FROM:** Kevin Costante  
Deputy Minister

**DATE:** August 24, 2010

**SUBJECT:** **Release of Revised *Grades 9-10 and Grades 11-12 Arts Curriculum Policy Documents***

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The Ministry is committed to providing supports for the Student Success initiatives. Included in these supports are revisions to provincial curriculum policy documents to maintain a high-quality education system that ensures success for all students.

The revisions to *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9-10 and Grades 11-12 Arts* are the result of work done through the curriculum review process by teams of educators which began in the fall of 2007. The review process was guided by research on new approaches specific to this discipline, benchmarking/comparing the curriculum with that of other national and international jurisdictions; and thousands of consultations with educators, students, parents and a wide range of stakeholders. These consultations provided valuable insights into the areas of the curriculum needing strengthening.

In 2008 the Ministry completed feedback consultations for the draft of proposed revisions to *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9-10 and Grades 11-12 Arts*. Input from this process and other consultations was analysed and used to guide further revisions to the draft curriculum policy documents. The changes that have been made reflect how experiences in the arts – dance, drama, media arts, music, and the visual arts – play a valuable role in the education of all students. Through participation in the arts, students can develop their creativity, learn about their own identity, and develop self-awareness, self-confidence, and a sense of well-being. Since artistic activities involve intense engagement, students experience a sense of wonder and joy when

learning through the arts, which can motivate them to participate more fully in cultural life and in other educational opportunities.

The revised curriculum policy documents for *Grades 9-10 and Grades 11-12 Arts* are ready for release to school boards, schools and other education stakeholders. To facilitate implementation, a copy of each of the revised curriculum documents has been posted on the Ministry website today. Also posted is the support document outlining the focus course opportunities available in the arts. Print copies of the documents will be distributed to school boards and schools shortly thereafter. Mandatory implementation of the documents begins in September 2010.

Implementation training sessions have included web-based components which were held in fall 2009; regional face-to-face two-day components were also held in fall 2009.

As you are aware, *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9-10 and Grades 11-12 Arts, 2009 (Revised)* curriculum policy documents are the next revised curriculum documents to which the standards for environmental education have been applied as recommended in the report *Shaping Our Schools Shaping Our Future*, June 2007. The revised Arts curriculum aligns with other existing and newly released government policies and documents such as *Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy* and the *Foundations for a Healthy School Framework*.

If you have any questions about the revised curriculum policy documents, please contact the appropriate Regional Office for information. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Ministry's curriculum review process.

***Original Signed by***

Kevin Costante

cc: K. Rankin, Director, FSB  
P. Manson and E. Newman, Senior Executive Officers, LNS  
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