

Ministry of Education

Minister

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Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

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Toronto ON M7A 1L2



August 25, 2014

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to let you know about the strategic priorities we have set for Professional Activity (PA) days and professional learning during the 2014/15 and 2015/16 school years. Attached you will find the specifics of these priorities. However, I would like to speak to their overall intent and how they support Ontario's renewed vision for education.

The success of our renewed vision is premised on the continuous development of a high-quality teaching profession and strong leadership, at all levels of the publicly funded education system. Key to that is professional development that aligns with our four ambitious goals of achieving excellence, ensuring equity, promoting well-being and enhancing public confidence.

As such, PA days and professional learning for the next two school years are more than just updates to existing knowledge; they are foundational to our renewed vision. That is why one mandatory PA day will continue to be dedicated to improving and/or closing the gap in numeracy, while a second mandatory PA day will be devoted to essential components of the renewed vision. These include well-being and equity, 21st century skills and competencies, and supporting high-quality play- and inquiry-based learning strategies.

These strategic learning priorities directly support Achieving Excellence, a document that received invaluable input from trustees such as you. As a result, I hope you share my excitement that PA days and professional learning over the next two years will bring our renewed vision to life and support higher levels of student achievement for even more students in Ontario.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and wish you all the best for the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Sandals".

Liz Sandals
Minister

Enclosure