

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister

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Ministère de l'Éducation

Sous-ministre

Édifice Mowat
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August 24, 2016,

Dear Partnership Table Member,

In June, the government announced changes to health cards and driver's licences to better reflect the changing understanding of gender and to be more thoughtful in how it uses the information.

Since June 13, 2016, all new and renewed Ontario photo health cards have been printed without indicating the cardholder's sex. They work the same as those issued with a person's sex.

The government is also taking steps to offer the option of an Ontario driver's licence with an (X) in the "sex" field for those that do not identify exclusively as male (M) or female (F). We expect this option to be available in early 2017.

The government also announced that this summer the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services will launch public and stakeholder consultations to help develop and create a broad policy on how ministries collect, use, retain and display sex and gender information on public-facing government forms and products.

As a part of the consultations, the government has launched an [online consultation](#) that is now open to the public.

A safe, inclusive and accepting school environment, including students of all gender identities, is essential for student well-being and achievement.

The Ministry of Education collects binary gender data through the Ontario Education Number (OEN) Registry and the Ontario School Information System (OnSIS). In addition, gender information is displayed on a number of different components of the Ontario Student Record (OSR), including the Ontario Student Record Folder, the Office Index Card, and the Ontario Student Transcript (OST).

The new policies may have implications on how school boards collect, store and report this information to our ministry.

As a valued partner, we wanted to inform you of the online consultation and encourage your participation. We thank you in advance for your feedback. It is through feedback such as yours that we will be able to develop and implement a government-wide policy that is more inclusive of gender diversity.

If you have any questions, please contact information.met@ontario.ca.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N Matthews". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Nancy Matthews
Deputy Minister