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MEMORANDUM TO: Deans of Faculties of Education

FROM: Sue Durst
Director
Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch

DATE: December 11, 2007

SUBJECT: *Making GAINS* Conference– Engaging your district in the dynamics of promising practices in 7-12 Literacy and Mathematics Learning, February 12 and 13, 2008

I am pleased to inform you of the Ministry's plan to provide, between now and June 2008, multi-faceted supports in literacy and mathematical literacy, Grades 7 to 12. This plan, part of Phase 3 of our Student Success/Learning to 18 initiative, recognizes the importance of collaborating with all stakeholders, including Faculties of Education, in our efforts to reach every student.

This memo provides information about a provincial conference being hosted for board planners/leaders and about more targeted supports being made available to teachers. We know that these are pertinent to teacher preparation and education.

Provincial Conference for Board Level Planners/Leaders

Faculties of Education are invited to send a team of 4 researchers to the February 12-13, 2008 provincial conference – *Making GAINS*. This joint literacy and mathematics conference will showcase *GAINS* (Growing Accessible Interactive Networked Supports), launch Literacies for Lifelong Learning, and share models and tools for moving mathematics instruction forward.

The primary purpose of the '*Making GAINS*' conference is to share promising practices for all levels of the system, and to suggest access points for boards, schools, and teachers. Faculty of Education guests will have the opportunity to participate with board leaders who play an active role in strategic planning in a combination of plenary and breakout sessions that explore the following:

- **promising practices for improving instruction in Literacy and Mathematics**, including coaching, lesson study, demonstration classrooms, cross-panel co-teaching, collaborative assessment development and scoring, contexts for effective use of CLIPS and interactive whiteboards in differentiating instruction, and collaborative development of school and family-of-schools Agendas for Action to Differentiate Mathematics Instruction
- meaningful **research findings** from pilot projects

- promising ways of harnessing **collaborative technologies**, such as Adobe Connect, SMARTboards, and the GAINS First Class Server
- **tools for data analysis and measurement** of effectiveness, and promising applications of these
- **supports for principals** and **promising practices for their use**
- **readiness conditions**, ways of scaling up and sustaining promising practices while honouring the complexities of implementation and change.

The conference will also provide Faculty of Education participants with an opportunity to learn about the Ministry response to requests for ongoing, job-embedded professional learning supports, for example,

- the development of searchable print and video classroom and professional learning resources, and
- a series of Adobe Connect web-conferences.

Sessions will address the range of roles represented on board teams and endeavour to engage participants as much as possible in interactive sessions.

The *Making GAINS* conference will take place at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel on February 12 and 13, 2008. Each Faculty of Education may send a team of **up to four researchers—preferably researchers who specialize in adolescent literacy or 7-12 mathematics**.

Hotel Reservations for Out-Of-Town Attendees

Hotel reservation details will be sent to Deans of Faculties of Education by December 19th.

Symposium Registration

On-line symposium registration information will be forwarded to Deans in January, 2008.

As you can see, we have an ambitious agenda for improving literacy and mathematics instruction in Grades 7-12. We thank you in advance for your efforts to ensure that the appropriate Faculty of Education researchers are able to participate in this opportunity.

Thank you for your ongoing work to ensure that we work together to reach every teacher of Grades 7-12 and through them, every student.

Sue Durst

cc: Kirsten Parker, Director, Student Success/Learning to 18,
Implementation, Training & Evaluation Branch, Ministry of Education

Kit Rankin, Director, Field Services Branch, Ministry of Education
Regional Managers, Field Services Branch, Ministry of Education