



**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education  
Healthy Schools Working Table

**FROM:** Barry Pervin  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Instruction and Leadership Development Division

**DATE:** December 5, 2013

**SUBJECT:** **Pan Am/Parapan Am Kids Launch**

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Dear colleague,

In July 2015, Toronto will host the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, the largest multi-sport event staged in Canada since the 1976 Olympic Summer Games. This will be a celebration of youth and diversity. Close to 7,000 athletes from across Latin America, South America, the Caribbean and North America will compete in 36 Pan Am sports and 15 Parapan Am sports at the Toronto 2015 Games.

Yesterday, Minister Sandals took part in an event at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Toronto to launch an exciting new initiative. Pan Am/Parapan Am Kids is designed to increase awareness of the 2015 Games by encouraging participation in a variety of sports, recreational and cultural activities over the next two school years. Pan Am/Parapan Am Kids incorporates four complementary initiatives from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport and TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Organizing Committee (TO2015).

Although the Games are taking place in the Greater Toronto area, the goal of Pan Am/Parapan Am Kids is to extend excitement about the Games to communities across Ontario. It will encourage Ontario children to lead active, healthy lives and increase their participation in sports and physical activities.

Two of the Pan Am/Parapan Am Kids initiatives are now available on the Pan Am/Parapan Am Kids website ([ontario.ca/ppakids](http://ontario.ca/ppakids)). Kids 'n Play, developed by TO2015, is a resource of physical activities and healthy living lessons which connect children to the TO2015 games. My Personal Best, developed by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport in collaboration with PHE Canada, is an online monitoring tool. It can be used to assess children's and youth's physical literacy skills, set individualized goals and motivate children and youth to achieve their personal best. These resources were developed for use by schools and after-school/recreational programs.

The Ministry of Education has two additional Pan Am/Parapan Am Kids initiatives under development. PlaySport is an online resource for elementary and secondary educators that can be linked to the Ontario curriculum. It will provide a wide range of physical activities as well as videos promoting healthy living and decision making and student leadership. Activity Day kits are also being developed for elementary schools and after-school programs. The kits will include Activity Day cards, a banner and a guide that explains how to implement the activities so educators and after-school providers can set up a Pan Am/Parapan Am Activity Day in a gym or field. As a part of the Activity Day kit, each elementary school will be receiving \$200 to purchase related equipment. Both PlaySport and Activity Day kits will be available in 2014.

I encourage you to read about the [event](#). We are excited about Pan Am/ Parapan Am Kids and look forward to releasing more details about the ministry's initiatives in the new year.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Barry Pervin  
Assistant Deputy Minister