

**Ministry of Education**

Minister

Mowat Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

Édifice Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



December 18, 2015

Dear Chair,

I am writing to you about important progress we have made toward implementing the central agreements of the four teachers' federations.

As you know, these central agreements are the first to be achieved under the *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act*, and represent a tremendous accomplishment for all parties. It is a sincere pleasure to write to you as we work to focus our energy on advancing the goals of Ontario's renewed vision for education, *Achieving Excellence*.

One of our first priorities coming out of the agreements is to formalize an additional Professional Activity (PA) day for all teachers. To that end, Ontario Regulation 304, "School Year Calendar, Professional Activity Days", has now been amended. The requirement for an additional mandatory PA day is effective immediately and, as such, applies to the current school year.

The amendment to O. Reg. 304 also includes the requirement for boards to make transitional mid-year changes to 2015-2016 school year calendars to address the additional PA day, and to also notify the ministry and parents of these calendar revisions. Further information about this and more is included in an attached memo from Deputy Minister George Zegarac to all Directors of Education.

The additional PA day, dedicated to provincial education priorities, is included in all teachers' agreements, and is an excellent example of collective bargaining supporting the renewed vision for education in Ontario.

Cultivating and continuously developing a high-quality teaching profession is a core commitment of *Achieving Excellence*, and a key component of the vision's mission statement. Now, by way of an additional PA day, it will also be woven into the fabric of the school year, to the benefit of all teachers represented and the students whom they serve.

O. Reg. 304 (as amended by O. Reg. 364/15) may be found on the e-laws website at [www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca).

In closing, I want to thank you for your continued hard work and leadership. I look forward to continuing to work with you as we further implement the agreements we have reached, and in doing so, help move Ontario's publicly funded education system from great to excellent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Sandals". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liz Sandals

Minister

c: Council of Ontario Directors of Education

Enclosure