

**Ministry of Education**

Mowat Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Édifice Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



**Memorandum To:** Directors of Education  
Secretary Treasurers of School Authorities  
Director of Provincial Schools

**From:** Eileen Silver, Director (A)  
Safe Schools and Student Well-Being Branch  
Leadership and Learning Environment Division

Shirley Kendrick, Director  
Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch  
Learning and Curriculum Division

Denys Giguère, Director  
French Language Education Policy and Programs Branch  
French Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division

**Date:** December 2, 2016

**Subject:** **Ontario 150 Programs**

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In celebration of the 150th anniversary of Canada and Ontario we are pleased to advise you of two Ministry of Education funding opportunities. As 2017 marks Ontario and Canada's sesquicentennial the ministry would like to provide an opportunity for school boards and schools to actively participate in these celebrations through the programs listed below.

**Elementary School Playground Space Enhancement:**

Funding is available for schools to enhance existing playgrounds. The funding is intended to increase opportunities for students to participate in physical activity through enhancing school outdoor physical activity space. This may include, painting playgrounds and/or purchasing permanent playground equipment. Each school board that opts in to this program will receive a minimum of \$5000.00 to be distributed to one or more school.

**Secondary School Arts Celebrations:**

Funding is available to involve students in a celebration of Ontario 150 through the arts such as musical, visual, dramatic, multi-media and/or digital productions. The funding is intended to produce musical, visual, dramatic, multi-media and/or digital productions that celebrate Ontario's 150th anniversary and link to the Ontario curriculum.

Each school board that opts in to this program will receive a minimum of \$1500.00 to be distributed to one or more school.

**Expression of Interest:**

Participation in one or both of these programs will require school boards to:

- manage the transfer payment agreement and report back to the Ministry on results; and
- identify schools within the board to participate in the program.

Participation in one or both of these programs will require schools to:

- engage students in the planning, organization, implementation and celebration;
- partner with parents and the broader school community; and
- coordinate a school-wide Ontario 150 event that highlights student learning as part of this project.

To indicate your interest in participating in one or both of these programs, please complete the expression of interest form at the following link by Friday, December 23, 2016: <http://fluidsurveys.com/s/Ontario150/>.

Allocations for each school board will be determined based on the number of school boards who decide to participate in the programs, and will be proportional to the size of the school board.

**Timelines:**

The following timelines apply to both projects. Please note that funding will flow to school boards, and must be spent during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

December 23, 2016	Deadline to complete expression of interest
Week of January 16, 2017	Confirmation of school board allocation Distribution of Transfer Payment Agreements
April 3, 2017	First payments to school boards
May 2017 to October 2017	Completion of projects and school celebrations
November 30, 2017	Final reports due to ministry
December 2017	Final payments to school boards

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Danielle Lupoi at [danielle.lupoi@ontario.ca](mailto:danielle.lupoi@ontario.ca).

We look forward to celebrating Ontario's sesquicentennial in Ontario schools and hope that your board will join us in the celebrations.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Eileen Silver  
Director (A)  
Safe Schools and  
Student Well-Being  
Branch

*Original signed by*

Shirley Kendrick  
Director  
Curriculum and  
Assessment Policy Branch

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Denys Giguère  
Director  
French Language  
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