

**Ministry of Education**

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**Ministère de l'Éducation**

**Bureau régional de Barrie**  
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**RMM: 19**

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education  
Secretary-Treasurers and Supervisory Officers of School Authorities

**FROM:** Joan Fullerton

**DATE:** December 9, 2009

**SUBJECT:** **Curriculum Review – Native Languages**  
**Regional Focus Group Session – Tuesday, January 12, 2010**

Year 7 of the Curriculum Review process began this September. As you know, the review process for each discipline includes consultation through stakeholder information sessions and focus groups.

We are currently working in partnership with the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch of the Ministry of Education to offer one-day focus group sessions in January 2010 for representatives from school boards and school authorities. The purpose of these sessions is to gather input from teachers for the review of the Native Languages, Grades 1-8, Native Languages, Grades 9 and 10, and Native Languages, Grades 11 and 12 curriculum policy documents.

Barrie region boards will be participating as part of the focus group session hosted by the Toronto Area Regional Office. Detailed information regarding the specific date, times and location of the Native Languages, Grades 1-8, Native Languages, Grades 9 and 10 and Native Languages, Grades 11 and 12 Focus Group Session is included below.

<p><b>Focus Group Session for Native Languages, Grades 1-8, Native Languages, Grades 9 and 10 and Native Languages, Grades 11 and 12 Focus Group Session</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday, January 12, 2010</b> 8:30 a.m. (Registration and continental breakfast) 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Toronto Airport Marriott Hotel 901 Dixon Road. Toronto ON M9W 1J5 416-674-9400</p>

Boards are invited to send a maximum of two (2) representatives with experience in this subject area to the session, one from each panel if possible:

- One (1) secondary teacher currently teaching a Native Language.
- One (1) elementary teacher currently teaching a Native Language.

School authorities are invited to send one (1) representative to the focus group session.

Please list the names of participants on the attached registration chart and return to Bob Stones, Education Officer, Barrie Regional Office, by e-mail at [Robert.Stones@ontario.ca](mailto:Robert.Stones@ontario.ca) or fax to 1-800-471-2584 or 705-725-7635, by **Friday, December 18, 2009**.

Please note that participants are to be prepared to discuss the strengths of the current curriculum policy documents, to identify potential areas for improvement and to comment on how a specific change may impact on the curriculum. Board representatives may wish to consult with their colleagues prior to the session by asking the following questions:

1. What are the strengths of the curriculum? Why?
2. Are there specific areas that need improvement? If so, what are they?
3. What impact, if any, would a specific proposed change have on the curriculum? For example, what needs to be considered within the grade? Within the discipline? Across other disciplines?

The Curriculum Review Registration Chart and the Expense Claim template are attached.

#### **Expense Claim Information**

The ministry will reimburse participants for the cost of:

- Travel (at the rate of \$.40 per kilometre)
- Hotel accommodation if necessary (for participants traveling 200 kilometres or more return trip)
- For those requiring accommodation, one supper meal for the night of accommodation (\$20.00/meal). Breakfast and lunch will be provided during the training for all participants.
- Supply teacher coverage, where required to cover classroom teachers, is at the board's per diem rate.

Those requiring overnight accommodation are to deal directly with Marriott reservations at 1-800-905-2811. A block of rooms is being held until Monday, December 21, 2009 under "Ministry of Education Meeting" at a rate of \$148.00 per room. Participants requiring overnight accommodation are to book and pay for their own accommodations/meals and then submit all bills to their own board for reimbursement. Each board must then submit a signed, original board invoice and itemized Expense Claim (template attached) along with copies of all receipts. Please forward these forms to Bob Stones, Education Officer, in the Barrie Regional Office as soon as possible or by **Friday, February 19, 2010**.

If you require further information about the session, please contact Bob Stones at 1-866-632-1602 or 705-725-7156 or email at [Robert.Stones@ontario.ca](mailto:Robert.Stones@ontario.ca).

We value the input from school boards and school authorities and thank you for your continued support.

Regional Manager

Attachments