

Ministry of Education

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Ministère de l'Éducation

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RMM: 18

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

FROM: Joan Fullerton

DATE: December 8, 2009

SUBJECT: **Curriculum Review – Native Studies**
Regional Focus Group Session – January 15, 2010

Year 7 of the Curriculum Review process began this September. 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/February 2010 for representatives from school boards and school authorities. The purpose of the focus group sessions is to gather input from teachers to review and revise the Native Studies Curriculum Policy Documents, 9-10 and 11-12.

At this time, your board is invited to send one (1) representative to attend the Native Studies Focus Group. It is recommended that the regional compliment of participants come from a variety of discipline areas representing a number of the ten (10) Native Studies courses.

The information regarding the session is as follows:

Focus Group Session for Native Studies
<p>Friday, January 15, 2010 8:30 a.m. (<i>Registration and continental breakfast</i>) 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Ministry of Education Barrie Regional Office 20 Bell Farm Road, Unit #9 Barrie ON L4M 6E4</p>

Please complete the attached registration chart and return it to Bob Stones, Education Officer, Barrie Regional Office no later than **Friday, December 18, 2009**.

Please note that participants should be prepared to discuss:

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?

Board representatives may wish to discuss the questions above with their colleagues prior to the session.

The Focus Group registration chart, the Expense Claim template and a map to the Barrie Regional Office is 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.

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.

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



J. Fullerton
Regional Manager

Attachments