

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

Minister

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December 22, 2009

Dear Parent Involvement Committee Chair,

I am pleased to invite you and a second member of your committee to attend the first annual PIC Symposium to be held in Toronto on April 16, 2010. This symposium will provide a forum for open dialogue on both the challenges and opportunities to enhance parent engagement in our schools, and is an important step for both my staff and me to hear directly from parents at the grassroots level. There will be a variety of carousels on topics of interest to PICs, as well as opportunities to share good ideas and discuss issues. You will be contacted with more details in the near future. I am confident that with your support, advice and enthusiasm, the first annual PIC Symposium will be a significant resource and help our government reach our goals to foster parent engagement and student achievement.

We are all aware of the important role of parent engagement in student achievement. Our government has been working hard to strengthen parent involvement since we came into office. I am committed to continuing our excellent record of supporting parent participation in our schools. I am pleased to inform you that Bill 177 (*Student Achievement and School Board Governance Act, 2009*) has received Royal Assent, which will permit me to seek approval of a regulation to require every board in the province to have a PIC, which will reinforce the vital link between school and parents. You will be consulted on the proposed new PIC Guide, as well as what a possible regulation could contain.

Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants provide further support to parent involvement. As you know, applications for this school year closed on October 16, 2009. The evaluation process is nearly complete, and the announcement of the approved grants will be made shortly. I am most pleased with the many exciting PRO Grant projects undertaken by our communities since 2006.

In response to feedback, the PRO Grant cycle will begin even earlier in 2010. This will allow evaluations to take place over the summer, with approvals to be announced at the beginning of the 2010/11 school year. We greatly appreciate your support of this initiative. You will be notified when the application process for the 2010/11 PRO Grants is announced so that you can continue to support and promote this opportunity for outreach initiatives with parents in your area.

I look forward to our April meeting and to our working together to encourage parent and community engagement in education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Wynne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Education