

Ministry of Education

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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Kit Rankin

DATE: February 5, 2008

SUBJECT: Community Use of Schools

As you know, the government is committed to improving student success and strengthening communities by making it easier to use schools after hours through the Community Use of Schools program. I am pleased to provide you with information on a number of improvements to the program.

Funding Enhancements

Since 2004, \$20M has been provided annually to support this program. In the 2008 - 09 school year, \$13M funding will be added; approximately half to assist boards to hire Outreach Coordinators and the remaining half to lower fees further. The Outreach Coordinator will promote the program and ensure its effectiveness at the local level. Details on this funding will be provided later this winter.

In addition, the government will identify priority schools by 2011 - 12 which will provide free access to school facilities for not-for profit groups in communities where needs are greatest.

Program funding will continue to rise over the next four years, reaching \$66M by 2011 - 12. It is our intention to establish a task group of school board leaders, representatives from stakeholder groups, and ministry staff who will discuss and advise on the new funding.

Effective Practices

In summer 2007 a survey of school board-level Community Use of Schools (CUS) program effective practices was sponsored by the Ministry of Education. The attached document provides an overview of the findings of the survey and identifies eight effective practices. You will be interested to know that these practices have been posted to the Ministry of Education's website at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/community/>.

I would like to thank the school boards that participated in the survey and encourage all boards to look to these practices for ways to improve their own programs.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this important initiative. Please contact your Ministry of Education Regional Office should you have questions on any of these matters.

Kit Rankin

cc Dominic Giroux
 Regional Managers
 Nancy Naylor
 Nancy Whynot
 Senior Business Officials
 Senior Plant Officials