

Ministry of Education

Minister

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Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



January 15, 2014

Dear PIC Chairs and Co-chairs,

I am pleased to extend an invitation to two parent members of each Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) to attend the 5th Annual PIC Symposium this April 25 and 26, in Toronto.

We will be sending an information package with more details in the near future, including information about travel expenses.

As you know, the Annual PIC Symposium brings together more than 200 dedicated and committed parents and ministry staff from across the province to discuss the importance of parent engagement to support student achievement and well-being in Ontario's education system. I look forward to your participation.

Building on the success of previous events and the valuable feedback from participants, the 2014 symposium will expand upon the most popular elements. Some of the items featured at this year's event will include:

- A variety of sessions on various topics of interest
- Workshops, practical tips and materials that will help you reach out to more parents and get them engaged
- Informative table displays
- Facilitated table discussions with parents from across the province and within your own region about shared experiences, successes, challenges and innovative ideas.

We know that parent engagement has a significant impact on student achievement and well-being. That's why we continue to support our Parents Reaching Out Grants at the regional and local level. Your leadership and support for this initiative are greatly appreciated. More information on the 2014/15 grants will be available soon.

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Lastly, I would like to mention that nominations for the Premier's Awards for Accepting Schools are now open and will be accepted until February 21, 2014. Please consider making a nomination to recognize deserving teams for the work they do making our schools safe, inclusive and accepting places to learn and grow. More information can be found at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/award.html>.

Thank you for your continued dedication to parent engagement in your community. I look forward to seeing you in April.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Sandals". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Liz" and last name "Sandals" clearly distinguishable.

Liz Sandals
Minister

c: Directors of Education