

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Sous-ministre

Édifce Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Senior Business Officials

FROM: George Zegarac
Deputy Minister

DATE: January 15, 2014

SUBJECT: Technical Working Group on Benefits (TWGB) – Data
Collection

The 2013 Ontario Budget announced that agreements reached with education sector workers included a commitment to explore the creation of one or more province-wide benefit plan(s) for this sector, with a view to consolidation and consistency of approach.

As a result, the Technical Working Group on Benefits (TWGB) has been struck to explore options for the delivery of a provincial benefit plan(s). The group will consider different models with the goal of finding efficiencies, which may result in savings and/or re-investments in benefits. To ensure this exercise results in evidence-based solutions for all participating stakeholders a financial feasibility review is being performed as a preliminary step. As such, we require access to data on your benefit plans and appreciate your assistance and cooperation in collecting this information.

The information request is being coordinated by our consultant on this project, Morneau Shepell. To avoid duplication of efforts for school board staff, the information gathered for the financial feasibility review will be shared with other authorized parties for purposes relating to work being performed by the TWGB. The data will be shared on a provincial basis with each party receiving depersonalized data aggregated by bargaining agent. Specific individual claimant information and board level data will not be shared to ensure confidentiality.

We intend to consult with the working group to determine the specific data requirements to complete the financial feasibility review. As a first step, we are requesting a survey to identify the relevant benefit plans for each employee group in your school board. The completed survey should be returned via e-mail to James McKittrick at jmckittrick@morneaushepell.com, no later than January 28, 2014. A representative from Morneau Shepell will contact you directly to follow up on the survey status and respond to any questions in completing the information.

I appreciate your assistance in this important exercise and look forward to providing updates on our progress. If you have any questions please contact the lead Ministry of Education representative on the TWGB, Gabriel F. Sékaly, Assistant Deputy Minister, at 416-325-6127 or Gabriel.Sekaly@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



George Zegarac
Deputy Minister

Enclosure

- c: Tony Dean, Chair
 Technical Working Group on Benefits
- Alex Killoch, Director
 Ministry of Finance
- Leah Myers, Assistant Deputy Minister
 Ministry of Finance
- Gabriel F. Sékaly, Assistant Deputy Minister
 Ministry of Education
- Tim Hadwen, Assistant Deputy Minister
 Ministry of Education
- Joshua Paul, Ministry of Education
- Members of the Technical Working Group on Benefits