

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

Deputy Minister

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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Kevin Costante
Deputy Minister

DATE: July 14, 2011

SUBJECT: Follow up to June 1, 2011 Memo re: Student and Staff Safety

In June, following the tragic death of a student, you received a memo from me regarding student and staff safety.

The Ministry of Labour (MOL) is continuing to investigate this incident and has given some preliminary direction to us so that proactive measures can occur in preparation for the upcoming school year. The MOL has asked that, as you prepare for school start-up, facilities in schools be reviewed to ensure compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Please also review training procedures to ensure that processes are in place to adequately train staff and to inform students of appropriate safety precautions. The MOL will be conducting province-wide proactive inspections within the education sector throughout the summer and early fall, focusing on high-risk environments within schools such as metalworking shops, woodworking shops, auto shops and science labs.

Boards will also be receiving targeted information and a webinar series from the Public Services Health and Safety Association (PSHSA) to raise awareness around safety issues. I trust that you will ensure the effective use of these materials within your schools.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to ensure that student and staff safety is a top priority.

Kevin Costante