

Ministry of Education

Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



July 26, 2016

Dear Student Trustees and Chairs of the Boards,

On August 1, 2016, a new term of office will begin for student trustees in school boards across Ontario. To all newly elected student trustees, and to those of you re-elected to the role, congratulations! I thank you for taking on the responsibility of representing the many, and incredibly diverse, student voices in your school district. You have an exciting opportunity to work together with board members, student leaders and senior staff to influence the future direction of education in your board.

During your term of office, you will have to balance many demands and expectations, and I assure you that your board, the provincial trustee associations and your student trustee associations will be there to support you. I am delighted that the Ministry of Education will be providing orientation support to you in the early days of your term of office through webinar sessions. Ministry staff are working with the Ontario Student Trustees' Association – l'Association des élèves conseillers et conseillères de l'Ontario (OSTA-AÉCO) and Regroupement des élèves conseillers francophones de l'Ontario (RÉCFO) to host these webinars to welcome you to your role and answer many of the questions common to student trustees across the province about their duties and responsibilities. The interactive webinars will be offered at different times in September, and your student trustee association will let you know the dates.

The supports you are provided will make all the difference to your success and I encourage all boards to consider how they can best support student trustees transitioning to the role. I also remind boards that section 55 (7) of the *Education Act* gives student trustees the same status as board members with respect to access to board resources and training opportunities. As student trustees, I encourage you to take advantage of professional development opportunities alongside your elected colleagues.

Once again, congratulations on your election. I know your contribution will be a meaningful one and that you will represent the students in your board well. Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable, inspiring, and successful year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH'.

Mitzie Hunter, MBA
Minister