

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

Deputy Minister

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**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education  
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities  
Supervisory Officers

**FROM:** Ben Levin  
Deputy Minister

**DATE:** June 24, 2009

**RE:** **Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) No. 119 “Developing and Implementing Equity and Inclusive Education Policies in Ontario Schools”, 2009**

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On April 6, 2009, the Ministry released *Realizing the Promise of Diversity: Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy*. The Strategy sets out a vision for an equitable and inclusive education system. Under the “Action Items” for Year 1 (2008-09), it states that the Ministry of Education will “issue a Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) to provide direction to boards on the development, implementation and monitoring of equity and inclusive education policies”, and will “release guidelines to assist boards in the development, implementation, and monitoring of equity and inclusive education policies, with a focus on addressing gaps in student achievement”.

Accordingly, please find attached the new Policy/Program Memorandum, No. 119 “*Developing and Implementing Equity and Inclusive Education Policies in Ontario Schools*”, June 24, 2009, which replaces Policy/Program Memorandum No. 119, “*Development and Implementation of School Board Policies on Antiracism and Ethnocultural Equity*”, July 13, 1993. This new PPM fully supports and expands upon the principles of the PPM 119, 1993, and does not reflect a weakened or reduced commitment to the principles of antiracism and ethnocultural equity. In addition, we are attaching “Quick Facts” – a one-page summary of the Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy.

To assist boards in its policy development and implementation, the Ministry will also be releasing *Equity and Inclusive Education in Ontario Schools: Guidelines for Policy Development and Implementation, 2009*, in the near future.

By the beginning of the 2010-11 school year (September 2010), it is expected that boards will have in place an equity and inclusive education policy that addresses the eight areas of focus outlined in the attached PPM and a guideline on religious accommodation. Boards may need to revise or expand upon their existing equity and/or antiracism/ethnocultural policy or develop a new policy on equity and inclusive education. School board policies must be comprehensive and must cover the prohibited grounds of discrimination set out in the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Furthermore, the principles of equity and inclusive education should be embedded into all aspects of board and school operations including program, employment, research, curriculum resources, instructional and assessment practices.

A hard copy of the PPM and Guidelines will be sent separately to you at a later date. Should you have any questions, please contact your Regional Office representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Levin".

Ben Levin  
Deputy Minister

**Electronic attachments:**

1. Realizing the Promise of Diversity: Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy
2. Quick Facts summarizing the Strategy
3. Policy/Program Memorandum No. 119 "Developing and Implementing Equity and Inclusive Education Policies in Ontario Schools", June 24, 2009