

**Ministry of Education**

Deputy Minister

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**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Sous-ministre

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**Memorandum To:**

Directors of Education  
Secretary-Treasurers and Supervisory Officers of School  
Authorities  
Principals of Elementary Schools  
Principals of First Nation Elementary Schools

**From:**

George Zegarac  
Deputy Minister

**Date:**

June 6, 2013

**Subject:**

Release of *The Ontario Curriculum: Social Studies, Grades 1-6; History and Geography, Grades 7-8, 2013 (Revised)*

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The revised curriculum policy document for *The Ontario Curriculum: Social Studies, Grades 1-6; History and Geography Grades, 7-8, 2013 (Revised)*/ *Le curriculum de l'Ontario, Études sociales de la 1re à la 6e année; histoire et géographie 7e et 8e année, 2013 (édition révisée)* has been posted on the Ministry of Education website [www.edu.gov.on.ca](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca) for school boards, schools and other education stakeholders. Print documents will be distributed to schools and school boards shortly. The ministry understands that school boards will make local decisions about their ability to implement all or part of the revised document beginning in fall 2013. Mandatory implementation of the document begins in September 2014.

The revisions to *The Ontario Curriculum: Social Studies, Grades 1-6; History and Geography Grades, 7-8, 2013 (Revised)*/ *Le curriculum de l'Ontario, Études sociales de la 1re à la 6e année; histoire et géographie 7e et 8e année, 2013 (édition révisée)* are the result of work done through the curriculum review process by teams of educators which began in the fall of 2009. The review process was guided by research on new approaches specific to this discipline, benchmarking/comparing the curriculum with that of other national and international jurisdictions; and thousands of consultations with educators, students, parents and a wide range of stakeholders. These consultations provided valuable insights into the areas of the curriculum needing strengthening.

The revised Social Studies; History and Geography/Études sociales; histoire et géographie curriculum also aligns with other existing and newly released government policies and documents including Character Education, Environmental Education, Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy, Financial Literacy Education, Growing Success, Literacy Strategy, Numeracy Strategy, First Nation, Métis and Inuit Policy Framework, the Comprehensive Action Plan on Accepting Schools and others.

Implementation training sessions are being provided in spring and fall 2013 and will include web-based components and face-to-face components for both English-language and French-language school board teams respectively to support the implementation of these documents, based on local school board decisions, beginning in September 2013. Mandatory implementation will occur in 2014.

If you have any questions about the revised curriculum policy document, please contact the appropriate Regional Office for information. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Ministry's curriculum review process.



George Zegarac  
Deputy Minister

c: Kathy Verduyn, Director, FSB

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Regional Managers