

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

Minister

Ministre

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March 2, 2009

Dear colleague,

Last year 29 boards and more than 925 schools across the province registered for WWF's Earth Hour. The Toronto District School Board alone recorded a 22% drop in electricity use and a significant cost savings.

This outpouring of support shows how much educators and students care about climate change. You are leaders, teaching not just your students but entire communities about the importance of the environment and that we can do something about it.

That's why the Ontario government launched *Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow* – the Environmental Education Policy Framework. It makes environmental education a part of every child's learning and fosters environmentally responsible practices across the province.

Earth Hour is a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to environmental education. Not just by turning off the lights, but by turning on young minds. Whether it's a lesson on electricity, civics or mathematics, please encourage your schools to use Earth Hour as a learning opportunity.

This year Earth Hour is Saturday, March 28 from 8:30 – 9:30pm. Once again we're asking you to **lead the province into Earth Hour on Friday, March 27**. In fact, we're hoping to do better than last year – we're challenging *all* of Ontario's publicly funded school boards to participate!

Visit wwf.ca/earthhourschools to register your board. You can download *Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow* and other environmental curriculum resources from the ministry website at www.ontario.ca/enviro-ed. Then remember to turn off all non-essential lights before going home on Friday night.

Thank you for making Earth Hour a celebration of Ontario's commitment to environmental education – and a global statement that together we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Education

Gerald Butts
President and CEO
WWF-Canada