

**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



March 27, 2015

Dear Chair,

At this time last year, I made the commitment that we would continue our efforts to make progress on working together to improve coherence between ministry and school board planning. This included a return to the practice of no ministry-led events on Mondays to free that day for school and board planning. I am pleased to inform you that we are continuing to make progress in two key areas of this commitment – the further streamlining of ministry sessions and an earlier release of the ministry's Calendar of Education Events.

Our renewed vision, [\*Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario\*](#), encourages us to work together to integrate and consolidate our efforts around key priorities. Continuing increased engagement and working collaboratively are required to realize the goal of a system that is responsive, high quality, accessible, and integrated from early learning to adult education. A significant component of this work relates to professional learning that takes place with the ministry, school boards, and other partners.

Over the past two years, a cross-ministry planning committee has been reviewing professional learning plans in the context of innovation, alignment and possible integration. This committee has consulted with partners in the field, including CODE and the Institute for Education Leadership, about how to make progress with the outcome of a more responsive Calendar of Education Events. Features for the 2015-16 calendar are detailed in the attached appendix.

The ministry has come together with school boards to integrate this work while continuing to focus on implementing *Achieving Excellence* in partnership with each other. Examples of this have been the ministry symposia in the fall and the upcoming spring Leadership Congress/Symposium. The fall symposium featured integrated models of professional learning and consultation, such as coordinated sessions about aboriginal education, equity and inclusive education, collaborative inquiry, Learning for All, and experiential learning.

Information on ministry-led events for 2015-16 is now available online via the Calendar of Education Events [here](#). We hope this earlier release will facilitate school board planning processes. Moving forward, I look forward to our continued work together to improve outcomes for all of our learners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Sandals', written in a cursive style.

Liz Sandals  
Minister