

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

Deputy Minister

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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Kevin Costante
Deputy Minister

DATE: May 12, 2010

SUBJECT: Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week – November 15-19, 2010

Ontario's Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week will be recognized the third week of every November, starting with November 15-19, 2010.

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week is an important way to focus the school community on promoting a safer learning environment for all students, which is essential to their success. It is also a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of bullying-related issues with parents and the local community.

The Legislative Assembly of Ontario passed a resolution to recognize Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. During this week, Safe School Teams within your jurisdiction can plan activities to heighten awareness of what constitutes bullying and the impact it can have on the overall school climate.

Schools throughout the province have worked hard to deal with bullying. The ministry has provided supports to school boards, including:

- The Keeping Our Kids Safe at School Act which requires all board employees to report serious student incidents, such as bullying, to the principal; requires principals to contact parents of victims; and requires school staff who work directly with students to respond to inappropriate and disrespectful student behaviour.
- A provincial policy which requires every school board to have their own policies and procedures on bullying prevention and intervention.
- Bullying prevention training to teachers and principals across the province.
- Bullying becoming an infraction for which suspension must be considered.

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week is a time to speak up on an important issue that has affected too many of Ontario's students.

Everyone has a role to play in helping to make Ontario's schools safer. By participating in bullying awareness and prevention activities, you and your schools will be effecting positive change in student achievement and well-being.

I appreciate your support and your commitment to promoting a safe and healthy learning environment in Ontario's schools.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Kevin Costante
Deputy Minister of Education