

**Ministry of Education**

Minister

Mowat Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

Édifce Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



May 19, 2017

Dear colleagues:

The Ministry of Education is committed to ensuring that every student, regardless of where they live, has access to the supports they need to succeed in school and in their lives.

Recently, our government announced that we are providing new supports for students with special education needs in the North with its Northern Supports Initiative. This initiative recognizes that school boards operating in the North have unique challenges in supporting students with special education needs. This is a critical investment as it will benefit approximately 20,000 students across 22 school boards in Northern Ontario.

A separate memo from Deputy Minister Bruce Rodrigues to Directors of Education will explain the new Northern Supports Initiative. It will also outline additional investments made to the Special Education Grant. Over the coming weeks, the ministry will also be inviting directors of education to participate in a conference call to provide more details about these supports.

These new investments are another important step towards strengthening our publicly funded education system and raising it to even greater heights.

Our government also recently announced, as part of the 2017 Budget, additional investments of \$6.4 billion over three years in Ontario's education system. This reflects the government's commitment to help learners reach their full potential by supporting them from full-day kindergarten to postsecondary education and beyond.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing commitment to help our students succeed and reach their full potential.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MH", written in a cursive style.

Mitzie Hunter, MBA  
Minister

