

**Ministry of Education**

Deputy Minister

Mowat Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2  
Telephone (416) 325-2600  
Facsimile (416) 327-9063

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Sous-ministre

Édifice Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2  
Téléphone (416) 325-2600  
Télécopieur (416) 327-9063



**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education  
Deans of Education

**FROM:** Kevin Costante  
Deputy Minister

**DATE:** November 25, 2010

**SUBJECT:** **Knowledge Network for Applied Education Research**

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I am pleased to inform you of the establishment of a collaborative partnership among the Ministry of Education, the University of Toronto and the University of Western Ontario called the Knowledge Network for Applied Education Research (KNAER).

The KNAER will focus on building, advancing and applying robust evidence of effective practices through conducting research, synthesizing state-of-the-art knowledge from existing bodies of evidence (from Ontario and beyond) and facilitating networks of policy-makers, educators and researchers working collaboratively to apply research-to-practice. It will also act as a 'knowledge broker' to facilitate and lead the spread of established and new evidence through networks across Ontario's policy, education and research communities, as well as connecting with national and international networks.

The establishment and operation of the KNAER will support the Ministry's commitment to develop and implement policies, programs, and practices that are evidence-based, research-informed, and connected to provincial education goals. Systematic identification, widespread dissemination and consistent implementation of effective and promising practices is critical to meeting these commitments to high levels of student achievement, reduced gaps in performance, and increased public confidence in publicly-funded education.

Ministry responsibility for the KNAER will be led by the Education Research and Evaluation Strategy Branch of the French-Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division. Governance of the KNAER in terms of providing strategic direction and approving applied education research and knowledge mobilization initiatives will be carried out through a Planning and Implementation Committee co-chaired by:

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- Dr. Raymond Théberge, Assistant Deputy Minister, French-Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division, Ministry of Education;
- Dr. Ben Levin (Director, KNAER) , Professor and Canada Research Chair in Education Leadership and Policy at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto; and
- Dr. Robert B. Macmillan (KNAER Associate Director), Associate Professor and Associate Dean (Graduate Programs and Research) of the University of Western Ontario.

In order to move forward with the development of a strategic plan to March 31, 2012, the KNAER will be consulting with education stakeholders over the coming weeks. The focus of this consultation will be to solicit both ideas and participation regarding the development and dissemination of advanced knowledge and applied education research to support effective practices at all levels of the education system. The KNAER will focus particularly on four areas: building and supporting collaborative networks, building research capacity and use in schools, mobilizing existing bodies of knowledge in priority areas, and supporting collaborative applied research in priority areas where the knowledge base needs further development.

The ministry is planning a formal launch of the Knowledge Network for Applied Education Research in January 2011. In the meantime, if you have questions regarding the KNAER, I invite you to contact Raymond Théberge, Assistant Deputy Minister, French-Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division or Doris McWhorter, Director (Acting), Education Research and Evaluation Strategy Branch, [doris.mcwhorter@ontario](mailto:doris.mcwhorter@ontario) or by phone 416-314-3819.

Original Signed

Kevin Costante  
Deputy Minister

CC: Minister's office  
ADMs  
Doris McWhorter, ERESB  
Ben Levin, OISE  
Robert Macmillan, UWO  
Carol Baynon, UWO  
Julia O'Sullivan, OISE  
Dan Sanai, UWO  
Normand Labrie, OISE