

Ministry of Education

Special Education Policy
and Programs Branch
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Ministère de l'Éducation

Direction des politiques et des
programmes de l'éducation
de l'enfance en difficulté
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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School
Authorities
Director of Provincial and Demonstration Schools
Supervisory Officer of Centre Jules-Léger

FROM: Barry Finlay
Director
Special Education Policy and Programs Branch

DATE: October 26, 2009

SUBJECT: *Shared Solutions: A Guide to Preventing and Resolving
Conflicts Regarding Programs and Services for Students
with Special Education Needs Survey Results*

Attached for your review is an analysis of the results from the survey sent to you in early April, 2009 to assess the impact of the resource guide *Shared Solutions* on preventing and resolving conflict regarding programs and services for students with special education needs. This analysis highlights the impact that *Shared Solutions* has had for school boards in supporting their dispute prevention and resolution activities, undertaking new ones and in continuing to develop effective communication with students and parents.

As you are aware, *Shared Solutions* is part of the Ministry's larger initiative on dispute resolution regarding programs and services for students with special education needs. It was developed as a hands-on resource for parents and educators to provide information about programs and services for students with special education needs, and to provide functional conflict prevention and resolution strategies and tips. *Shared Solutions* focused primarily on informal conflict prevention and resolution.

The pilot projects on dispute resolution, in six school boards across the province, concluded at the end of the 2008-2009 school year. An evaluation of the results is in progress. Following this evaluation, the Provincial Advisory Committee will use the evaluation results to submit a series of recommendations to help inform future policy direction to the Special Education Policy and Programs Branch. This report is due in late Fall 2009.

Your continued support for, and use of *Shared Solutions* is very important to the successful resolution of disputes regarding programs and services for students with

special education needs. The Ministry will continue to support school boards in this endeavor to build great relationships with students and parents through effective communication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Finlay', with a small dot at the end of the signature.

Barry Finlay

Attachments