

**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



September 9, 2016

Dear Parent Involvement Committee chairs/co-chairs:

As the new Minister of Education, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2016-17 school year.

Thank you for everything that you do to support the achievement and well-being of our children and students in your school community. We are proud of the tremendous contributions of parents in our schools. And we know that good schools become great schools when parents are involved in their children's education.

We are committed to the success and well-being of every child and student. That is why we continue to support a wide range of opportunities for parents to engage in their children's learning.

One way our government is supporting parent involvement is through the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants. Since 2006, our government has awarded over 19500 PRO grants to school councils and 799 regional/provincial grants; a total investment of nearly \$31 million. This year more than 2,300 PRO Grants were announced, and we are pleased that the number of applications for school council applications continues to grow.

This shows that more school council and Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) members are working to involve even more parents in their children's learning in support of student achievement and well-being.

Last spring, the Minister's seventh annual PIC symposium was held in six regions across Ontario including one French-language provincial symposium. This change in format was in response to your feedback from previous symposia to reach more parents and to better respond to local needs.

Ontario is known as a world leader in education. This reputation is possible because of our partnership with strong and vibrant communities, including parents. We are committed to the achievement and well-being of every student and child in our schools, which is why promoting well-being is a key goal of our renewed vision for our education system. Studies have shown that children who have a positive sense of well-being are more resilient and better positioned to make positive and healthy choices to support their life-long learning. To learn more about the ongoing work, please visit:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/about/wellbeing2.html>

We remain committed to student achievement and continue to focus on the core skills of reading, writing and math. Earlier this year, we launched the renewed math strategy to better support our students, parents, teachers and schools in advancing math and numeracy achievement.

To support this strategy, we developed this toolkit: *Inspiring Your Child to Learn and Love Math*. It will provide helpful, user-friendly strategies and activities parents can use to help with their children's math learning. This toolkit is free and available online at: [http://www.ontariodirectors.ca/parent\\_engagement-math/en/index.htm](http://www.ontariodirectors.ca/parent_engagement-math/en/index.htm).

More resources and tools for parents can be found at:

- <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/multiLanguages.html>
- <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/elearning/homework.html>

Thank you for your continued support and feedback, we hope you find these resources helpful. Your work informs initiatives and resources that are important to help support, encourage and enhance parent engagement to support student success.

I wish you all the best in the coming school year.

Sincerely,

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

Mitzie Hunter, MBA  
Minister

- c. School Board Chairs  
Directors of Education  
Executive Assistants to Directors of Education