

FINDING COMMON GROUND: Character Development in Ontario Schools, K-12



Engaging our **students**,
our **schools** and
our **communities**

A PROVINCIAL SYMPOSIUM
Sheraton Centre Hotel
Toronto, Ontario
October 15 & 16, 2006

reach every student



The Premier of Ontario - Le Premier ministre de l'Ontario

October 14, 2006



A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone participating in this important symposium — Finding Common Ground: Character Development in Ontario Schools.

Education is one of the most precious gifts we can give our children, one that stays with and serves them for the rest of their lives. I often say that, when we nurture our young people, we forge a better province — and a brighter tomorrow. This is why our government passionately believes in fostering student success — the kind that is focused not just on academic excellence, but also on the cultivation of attributes that build a more compassionate, enlightened and dynamic society.

As Premier, I would like to recognize all of you here as partners in moulding Ontario's future leaders, a responsibility that we share. I want to thank you for taking the time to come together to raise questions, exchange ideas and find solutions that will enhance character development in our public schools.

As we work together to help ensure a stronger, more vibrant Ontario for present and future generations, please accept my sincere best wishes for a highly productive and inspiring symposium.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dalton McGuinty".

Dalton McGuinty
Premier



Ministry of Education - Ministère de l'Éducation

October 14, 2006



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

I am very pleased to welcome our partners in education — including students, teachers, principals and parents — to this important character development symposium.

Ontario has a good history of helping children become well-rounded citizens. Working together over the next two days, we will take character development in schools to the next level. We will share best practices and discover new ways to enhance the learning environment so students can achieve their greatest academic potential and become caring, contributing and involved citizens.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to helping us reach every student.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Wynne".

Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Education



We will help our schools develop good citizens through character education. Education is about more than reading, writing and creating good workers. We believe excellent public education should also develop good, well-rounded citizens. Character education is about schools reinforcing values shared by the school community; values such as respect, honesty, responsibility and fairness. It is not about government imposing a set of moral standards. We will encourage and enable each school community – parents, educators, students – to make their values part of the curriculum.

Excellence for All

The Ontario Liberal Plan for Education (2003)



Ontario

Ontario Education | EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

■ **Sunday, October 15, 2006**

3:00 pm

Registration (closes at 6 pm)

5:00 pm

Reception

Student Musical Performance

CLAUDE WATSON SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

6:00 pm

The National Anthem

CLAUDE WATSON SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

Welcome

DOMINIC GIROUX, Assistant Deputy Minister, French Language Education and Educational Operations Division

GEORGE ZEGARAC, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Planning and Elementary/Secondary Programs Division

Opening Remarks

DR. AVIS GLAZE, Chief Student Achievement Officer of Ontario and CEO, The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat

Keynote Speaker

THE HONOURABLE KATHLEEN WYNNE, Minister of Education

Dinner

Guest Speaker

CRAIG KIELBURGER, Free the Children

Host: LORRAINE GRUZUK, Student Achievement Officer, The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat

Review of the Symposium Agenda

DENYS GIGUÈRE, Manager, French Language Education Policy and Programs Branch

LORRAINE GRUZUK, Student Achievement Officer, The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat

9:15 pm

Adjournment



Monday, October 16, 2006

MORNING AGENDA

7:00 am

Breakfast (closes at 8:15 am)
 Student Musical Performance
 EARL HAIG SECONDARY SCHOOL

8:30 am

The National Anthem
 RASHAAN ALLWOOD, Lisgar Middle School
 Welcome and Overview of the Character Development Initiative
 DR. AVIS GLAZE, Chief Student Achievement Officer of Ontario and CEO,
 The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat

8:50 am

- Successful Practices in Character Development
 Featured Workshops for Students
- **WORKSHOP 1** Student Engagement: Redefining the Boundaries of the Classroom
 JENNIFER CORRIERO, TakingITGlobal
 AND
 - **WORKSHOP 2** Creating Broad-Based Student Engagement
 ALLAN HOYLE, Principal, York Region District School Board
 - **WORKSHOPS 3 TO 14** (see page 4-5)

10:00 am

Break Student Musical Performance: EARL HAIG SECONDARY SCHOOL

10:20 am

Keynote Speaker
 JUSTIN TRUDEAU, Education, Environment and Youth Advocate
 Introduction: DOMINIC GIROUX, Assistant Deputy Minister, French Language Education
 and Educational Operations Division
 Vote of Thanks: KIRSTEN PARKER, Director, Student Success/Learning to 18 Implementation,
 Training and Evaluation Branch

11:20 am

Respect (song written for *The Character Development Symposium*)
 ALYSON McNAMARA (singer/songwriter), Cobourg District High School

11:30 am

Keynote Address
 THE HONOURABLE DALTON MCGUINITY, Premier of Ontario
 Introduction: THE HONOURABLE KATHLEEN WYNNE, Minister of Education
 An expression of appreciation to our Premier: LORELEI ECCLESTON-DART and
 LOREN GRAZIANO, Vice-principal and student, Dublin Heights EMS, TDSB and
 accompanist, RICHARD LEACH
 Vote of Thanks: LIZ SANDALS, Member of Provincial Parliament,
 Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education

12:00 pm

Luncheon
 Luncheon Speaker
 Restoring School Civility
 DR. PHILIP FITCH VINCENT, Character Development Group
 Host: GINETTE PLOURDE, Director, French Language
 Education Policy and Programs Branch



Monday, October 16, 2006

AFTERNOON AGENDA

1:45 pm

Successful Practices in Character Development

Featured Workshops for Students

- **WORKSHOP 15** Student Voices ... A Time to Reflect and Share
Host: IRÈNE CHARETTE, Education Officer, French Language Education Policy and Programs Branch

Student Facilitators: FÉDÉRATION DE LA JEUNESSE FRANCO-ONTARIENNE (FESFO)

- **WORKSHOP 16** Civic Engagement: A Call to Action
TAYLOR GUNN, Student Vote

- **WORKSHOPS 17 TO 28** (see page 6-7)

2:45 pm

Break

3:00 pm

Keynote Speaker

Connecting Character Development to Academic Achievement
DR. MERLE SCHWARTZ, Director of Education and Research,
Character Education Partnership

Host: JAN KIELVEN, Student Achievement Officer,
The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat

3:30 pm

Keynote Speaker

A Comprehensive, Research-Driven Perspective on Character Education
DR. MARVIN BERKOWITZ, University of Missouri

Host: TONY DI LENA, Education Officer, Student Success/Learning to 18 Implementation,
Training and Evaluation Branch

4:00 pm

Conversations and Closing Remarks

Host: DR. AVIS GLAZE, Chief Student Achievement Officer of Ontario and CEO,
The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat

Discussion Questions at Tables

1. What insights can you share about how to involve students, the education sector and the community at large in the Character Development Initiative?
2. How will you move this initiative forward in your board or school?

4:45 pm

Adjournment



MORNING WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP 1 | ROOM: SPRING SONG

Student Engagement: Redefining the Boundaries

- ▼ Jennifer Corriero, *Co-founder & Executive Director*, TakingITGlobal

WORKSHOP 2 | ROOM: SPINDRIFT

Creating Broad-Based Student Engagement through Innovative Student Leadership Practices

- ▼ Allan Hoyle, *Principal*, YRDSB
- ▼ David Nagy, *Dept. Head of History*, YRDSB
- ▼ Bill Havercroft, *Dept. Head of Geography*, YRDSB

WORKSHOP 3 | ROOM: GINGERSNAP

Character Development: What Does it Look Like When it's Done Well?

- ▼ Dr. Merle Schwartz, *Education and Research Coordinator*, The Character Education Partnership

WORKSHOP 4 | ROOM: GOLD RUSH

Components of a Well Balanced Character Development Initiative

- ▼ Dr. Marvin Berkowitz, *Researcher*, University of Missouri-St. Louis

WORKSHOP 5 | ROOM: YORK

Character Development: The Role of System and School Leadership

- ▼ Bill Hogarth, *Director of Education*, YRDSB
- ▼ Zera Hameed, *Elementary Principal*, YRDSB
- ▼ Kelly McLeod, *Secondary Principal*, YRDSB
- ▼ Elaine Tordai, *Community Representative*
- ▼ Cecil Roach, *Special Assistant to the Director, Principal on Assignment*, YRDSB
- ▼ Bill Crothers, *Chair of the Board*, YRDSB

WORKSHOP 6 | ROOM: NORFOLK

Character Development and the Aboriginal Experience

- ▼ Janet Wilkinson, *Director of Education*, Keewatin-Patricia DSB
- ▼ Larry Hope, *Superintendent of Education*, Keewatin-Patricia DSB

WORKSHOP 7 | ROOM: WINDSOR EAST

Character Development and Community Building

- ▼ Susan LaRosa, *Director of Education*, YCDSB
- ▼ Christine deHaas, *Executive Director*, York Region Character Community

MORNING WORKSHOPS CONTINUED

WORKSHOP 8 | ROOM: WINDSOR WEST

Character Development and the Catholic Graduate Expectations

- ▼ John Podgorski, *Coordinator*, Religious Education and Family Life Education, OCCDSB

WORKSHOP 9 | ROOM: PEEL

It's About All of Us

- ▼ David Thomas, *Director of Education*, UCDSB
- ▼ Stephanie Reddoch, *Character Education*, UCDSB

WORKSHOP 10 | ROOM: OXFORD

Character Development and Literacy - Secondary

- ▼ Steve Russell, *Instructional Leadership Consultant*, The Arts, KPRDSB
- ▼ Tracey Hughes, *Coordinator*, The Arts, Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational School, KPRDSB

WORKSHOP 11 | ROOM: ROOM C (LOWER CONCOURSE)

Balancing Universality, Equity and Diversity through Character Development

- ▼ Merrill Mathews, *Student Achievement Officer*, The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat

WORKSHOP 12 | ROOM: ROOM F (MEZZANINE)

Taking it Deeper: A Matter of Heart

- ▼ John Havercroft, *Superintendent of Education*, YRDSB
- ▼ Michael Slodovnick, *Teacher Facilitator*, YRDSB

WORKSHOP 13 | ROOM: ROOM H (MEZZANINE)

Creating a Solid Foundation through Culture Building

- ▼ Steve Rensink, *Teacher Facilitator*, YRDSB
- ▼ Gunter Meyer, *Teacher Facilitator*, YRDSB

WORKSHOP 14 | ROOM: ROOM E (LOWER CONCOURSE)

Changer le monde dans 10 ans

- ▼ M^{me} Thérèse Désautels, *Responsable de l'animation pastorale*
- ▼ M. Henri Babin, *Enseignant en éducation physique*

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP 15 | ROOM: SPINDRIFT

Student Voices ... A Time to Reflect and Share

- ▼ Irène Charette, *Direction des politiques et programmes d'éducation en langue française*
- ▼ Geneviève Couillard, *Directrice générale*
- ▼ Andrew Carricato, *Animateur*
- ▼ *Student Facilitators: Fédération de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne (FESFO)*

WORKSHOP 16 | ROOM: SPRING SONG

Civic Engagement: A Call to Action

- ▼ Taylor Gunn, *Student Voice*

WORKSHOP 17 | ROOM: GINGERSNAP

A “How To” Guide to Successful Implementation

- ▼ Daryl Halliday, *Principal of Character Education and Safe Schools (SCDSB)*

WORKSHOP 18 | ROOM: CARLETON

Student Voice in Community, Culture and Caring

- ▼ Sandra Bickford, *Senior Policy Advisor**
- ▼ Jean Courtney, *Education Officer**
- ▼ Doley Henderson, *Senior Policy Advisor**

* Strategic Planning and Elementary/Secondary Programs Division

WORKSHOP 19 | ROOM: YORK

Character Development: The Role of System and School Leadership

- ▼ Bill Hogarth, *Director of Education, YRDSB*
- ▼ Zera Hameed, *Elementary Principal, YRDSB*
- ▼ Kelly McLeod, *Secondary Principal, YRDSB*
- ▼ Elaine Tordai, *Community Representative*
- ▼ Cecil Roach, *Special Assistant to the Director, Principal on Assignment, YRDSB*
- ▼ Bill Crothers, *Chair of the Board, YRDSB*

WORKSHOP 20 | ROOM: NORFOLK

Character Development and the Aboriginal Experience

- ▼ Janet Wilkinson, *Director of Education, Keewatin-Patricia DSB*
- ▼ Larry Hope, *Superintendent of Education, Keewatin-Patricia DSB*

WORKSHOP 21 | ROOM: GOLD RUSH

Classroom Management through Character

- ▼ Lucia Reese, *Superintendent of Education, ADSB*
- ▼ Dan Celetti, *Special Assignment Teacher, Character Education, ADSB*

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS CONTINUED

WORKSHOP **22** | ROOM: WINDSOR WEST

Character Development: A Call to Transformation

- ▼ Margaret Shea Lawrence, *Principal of Religious and Family Life Education*, Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario, CDSBEO

WORKSHOP **23** | ROOM: PEEL

It's About All of Us

- ▼ David Thomas, *Director of Education*, UCDSB
- ▼ Stephanie Reddoch, *Character Education*, UCDSB

WORKSHOP **24** | ROOM: OXFORD

Two for One: Developing Character and Increasing Literacy in the Junior/Intermediate Classroom

- ▼ Kerry McDonald, *Literacy Coach*, KPRDSB
- ▼ Alison Scott, *Literacy Coach*, KPRDSB

WORKSHOP **25** | ROOM: ROOM C (LOWER CONCOURSE)

Balancing Universality, Equity and Diversity through Character Development

- ▼ Merrill Mathews, *Student Achievement Officer*, The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat

WORKSHOP **26** | ROOM: ROOM F (MEZZANINE)

Taking it Deeper: A Matter of Heart

- ▼ John Havercroft, *Superintendent of Education*, YRDSB
- ▼ Michael Slodovnick, *Teacher Facilitator*, YRDSB

WORKSHOP **27** | ROOM: ROOM H (MEZZANINE)

Creating a Solid Foundation through Culture Building

- ▼ Steve Rensink, *Teacher Facilitator*, YRDSB
- ▼ Gunter Meyer, *Teacher Facilitator*, YRDSB

WORKSHOP **28** | ROOM: E (LOWER CONCOURSE)

Changer le monde dans 10 ans

- ▼ M^{me} Thérèse Désautels, *Responsable de l'animation pastorale*
- ▼ M. Henri Babin, *Enseignant en éducation physique*

FINDING COMMON GROUND:

Character Development in Ontario Schools, K-12

“EVERY student should learn about character – values such as respect, honesty, responsibility, fairness, empathy and civic engagement should be part of their everyday program.”

– PREMIER DALTON MCGUINITY

For many students, establishing relationships of respect and care is a necessary foundation for intellectual as well as social development.

– Michael Fullan and Andy Hargreaves

“Development of character is a solution to social problems and a worthy educational ideal.”

– John Stuart Mill

“Students cannot be part of the school system for 12 years and not have their values profoundly affected by the experience.”

– Leslie Matula

L'éducation en langue française promeut le respect des droits de la personne et des droits des francophones en milieu minoritaire ainsi que d'autres valeurs démocratiques telles l'égalité, la justice et la dignité de la personne.

– Politique d'aménagement linguistique

 Ontario reach every student

