TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Kit Rankin
   Director
   Field Services Branch

DATE: July 25, 2006

SUBJECT: Community Use of Schools

Further to Assistant Deputy Minister Dominic Giroux’s memo of April 11, 2006, I am pleased to provide additional information on the Community Use of Schools program.

Website Information

In preparation for the coming school year, the Ministry of Education is asking school boards to provide clear and concise information on their websites that will help community groups access school facilities more easily. The Ministry of Education will also help community groups learn more about the Community Use of Schools program by putting links to school board information on its website.

In order to simplify the task and to provide consistency in posted information, the Ministry of Education has prepared the attached template outlining the information that should be available to website users. The inclusion of any additional information beyond that outlined in the template is at the discretion of the board. In addition, we are asking that a clear link to the Community Use of Schools program information be provided on your board’s home pages. Please post this information by August 31, 2006, and inform your regional office if you anticipate any delay.

2005-06 Data Collection

As in the Community Use of Schools program’s inaugural year, the government will require a report on how program funds for the past school year were used to improve the access of community groups. A simplified reporting mechanism will be provided to you in late summer.

The government is committed to the Community Use of Schools program and is eager to work with school boards to improve it. We look forward to seeking your input on improving community use of schools and on refining the formula for allocation of funding to the program. In addition, staff from the Regional Offices of the Ministry of Education’s Field Services Branch will be contacting you in the coming year to discuss ways of refining data collection for 2006-07.
By making school space more affordable and accessible, we are supporting healthy, active lifestyles and helping to build vital communities that offer Ontarians a higher quality of life. Thank you for continuing to help to make the Community Use of Schools Program a success. I look forward to working together on this excellent program.

Kit Rankin

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