MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education  
FROM: Dominic Giroux  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
French-Language Education and Educational Operations Division  
DATE: August 16, 2006  
SUBJECT: Ministry of Education Response to Lebanon Evacuation  

As you are aware, the Canadian government has made arrangements to remove thousands of people to safety in Canada in response to the recent, unfortunate crisis in Lebanon. The Ministry of Education is committed to ensuring that evacuees coming to Ontario from Lebanon have access to public education for their children. It is anticipated that 2000 – 3000 children evacuated from Lebanon will be entering Ontario schools for the 2006-07 school year, many of whom will be children of Canadians who were on holiday in Lebanon and would have been enrolled in Ontario schools in September in any case.

It is expected that all of the evacuees arriving in Ontario from Lebanon will have been screened by federal immigration authorities, and will have citizenship, landed immigrant or other official status allowing them to avoid being charged fees to attend school. We anticipate that there will be a few cases where documentation is incomplete or missing due to the suddenness of their departure from Lebanon. In these cases, we are asking boards to make every effort to accommodate these children. Each case may be different, but we are confident that boards are accustomed to dealing with influxes of students from other countries and are familiar with the process. Ministry Regional Offices will be monitoring the numbers and types of cases that boards encounter. If necessary, the Ministry of Education will consider other responses to facilitate access to school.

We appreciate your cooperation and we look forward to a smooth and efficient board response for the children of Lebanese evacuees for the upcoming school year in September.

Dominic Giroux