MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education, District School Boards, Supervisory Officers and Secretary Treasurers of School Authorities, Supervisory Officer of Centre Jules-Léger, Director of Provincial Schools

FROM: Dominic Giroux Assistant Deputy Minister French-Language Education and Educational Operations

DATE: June 23, 2006

SUBJECT: Professional Activity (PA) Days

I am pleased to make you aware that we anticipate that regulatory amendments will be proposed to add two professional activity days to the school year calendar effective in the 2006-07 school year. It is also anticipated that the proposed regulation would specify that the two days would focus on provincial education priorities identified in the regulation. The ministry intends to develop resources to support the content and delivery of these specific professional activity programs. Details regarding implementation of these days will be provided if the amendments are approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

You are asked to begin to consider how your board’s school year calendar might be revised to add dates for the two new days, if they are approved. We suggest that you may also undertake appropriate stakeholder consultations similar to those used when a school year calendar is modified.

It is anticipated that any regulatory amendments would include a transitional provision specifying that any additional professional activity days would not occur prior to November 15, 2006. In addition, coterminous boards should make every effort to cooperate when scheduling any new professional activity days in order to reduce disruption for parents with children enrolled in coterminous boards and to avoid any additional transportation costs.

It is the ministry’s expectation that the implementation of any additional professional activity days would be done in a manner to minimize the loss of instructional time for students. As such, boards that are currently using “early dismissal” and “late arrival” days are to review this practice in order to minimize the loss of instructional time for students and reduce the potential disruption for parents and students.
I appreciate your support and assistance and will contact you as soon as we have further information to provide.

Dominic Giroux  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
French-Language Education and Educational Operations

cc. Ben Levin, Deputy Minister

   Avis Glaze, Chief Student Achievement Officer & CEO  
   Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat

   George Zegarac, Assistant Deputy Minister  
   Strategic Planning and Elementary/Secondary Program Division

   Aryeh Gitterman, Assistant Deputy Minister  
   Instruction and Leadership Development Division

   Kit Rankin, Director  
   Field Services Branch

   Members of the Minister’s Partnership Table