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

FROM:  
Avis E. Glaze  
Chief Student Achievement Officer/CEO, The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat  

George Zegarac  
ADM, Strategic Planning and Elementary/Secondary Programs Division  

Dominic Giroux  
ADM, French Language Education and Educational Operations Division

DATE:  
January 16, 2007

SUBJECT:  
Establishment of the Provincial Character Development Resource Teams

Funding for Finding Common Ground:  
Character Development in Ontario Schools, K–12

At the Finding Common Ground: Character Development in Ontario School, K – 12 Symposium held in October, 2006, the Ministry of Education announced that all publicly funded school boards in Ontario will implement a Character Development Initiative during the 2007 – 2008 school year. Many boards have already developed and implemented programs which address aspects of character development. For these boards, the Character Development Initiative will provide an opportunity to add depth to existing programs, and to take academic achievement, character development and civic engagement to new levels.

The roles and responsibilities that the Ministry of Education, boards, schools, teachers, all board and school staff, and students will play in making this initiative a reality are outlined in the Discussion Paper, posted at www.edu.gov.on.ca. We are pleased to announce the support and funding for this initiative.

Provincial Character Development Resource Teams

Eight character development resource teams have been established across the province. Five teams will support English public boards, one team will support English Catholic boards, one team will support French Catholic boards and one team will support French public boards. Team leaders
are school board leaders with experience in the implementation and extension of character development programs.

These leaders will be contacting the boards assigned to them directly. We encourage you to take advantage of their expertise and of this opportunity to work together as board learning communities.

**North Eastern Boards:** Leader: *Lucia Reece, Superintendent, Algoma DSB*
- Algoma District School Board
- District School Board of Ontario North East
- Rainbow District School Board
- Near North District School Board

**North Western Boards:** Leaders: *Janet Wilkinson, Director; Larry Hope, Superintendent, Keewatin-Patricia DSB*
- Keewatin-Patricia District School Board
- Rainy River District School Board
- Lakehead District School Board
- Superior-Greenstone District School Board

**Eastern Boards:** Leader: *Gina Camerano, Principal, Upper Canada DSB*
- Upper Canada District School Board
- Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board
- Limestone District School Board
- Ottawa Carleton District School Board
- Renfrew County District School Board

**Central Boards:** Leader: *MaryEllen French, Vice-Principal, Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB*
- Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board
- Durham District School Board
- Trillium Lakelands District School Board
- Simcoe County District School Board

**Southern Boards:** Leader: *John Havercroft, Superintendent, York Region DSB*
- York Region District School Board
- Avon Maitland District School Board
- Bluewater District School Board
- District School Board of Niagara
- Grand Erie District School Board
- Greater Essex District School Board
- Halton District School Board
- Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
- Lambton Kent District School Board
- Peel District School Board
- Thames Valley District School Board
- Toronto District School Board
- Upper Grand District School Board
- Waterloo Region District School Board

**NOTE:** English Public School Authorities will be assigned to Resource Teams following consultation.
Catholic Boards: Leader: Patrick Cureton, Director, Bruce-Grey Catholic DSB
- All Catholic District School Boards and Catholic School Authorities

French Catholic Boards: Leader: Bernard Lavallée, Directeur de l’éducation, Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud
- All French Catholic boards and French Language School Authorities

French Public Boards: Leader: Suzanne Moncion, Surintendante, Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l’Ontario
- All French public boards

Funding for the Character Development Initiative
We are making funding available to boards to initiate or build upon their existing character development initiatives. This funding is to support:
- A process of community consultation and engagement
- Professional development
- Increased student engagement
- Data collection and analysis of current practices

By June 30, 2007, boards are asked to provide the attached single page feedback on the actions being taken to support the early stages of the outreach and engagement process. This information will greatly assist us in future planning, resource allocation and decision making.

We recognize that educators across the province have always been committed to the development of the character of their students. This is not new. We look forward to working together with you as you intentionally and purposefully implement the Character Development Initiative.

Sincerely,

Avis Glaze  George Zegarac  Dominic Giroux

CC:  EDU Assistant Deputy Ministers  ETFO General Secretaries
      EDU Field Services Branch Director  OECTA General Secretaries
      EDU Region Office Managers  AEFO General Secretaries
      CAPPB Directors  FESFO Director
      FLEPP Directors  OSSSA Director
      LNS Student Achievement Officers  OPSBA President
      CODE Executive Director  ACEPO Director
      CODELF Secretary  OCSTA Director
      OPC Executive Director  AFOCSC Director
      CPCO Executive Director  Provincial Character Development Resource
      ADFO Executive Director  Team Leaders
      OSSTF General Secretary
Finding Common Ground:  
Character Development in Ontario Schools, K – 12 

Early Stage Action Report

Name of School Board/School Authority:

Director of Education:

Supervisory Officer of the School Authority:

Telephone:                           Email Address:

Name of Board Contact:               Title:

Telephone:                           Email Address:

1. How have you engaged students, educators and community members in establishing or expanding your character development initiative?

2. What are your next steps in utilizing the insights you have gained from this process to further develop or expand your character development initiative?

Person Completing Form:            Date:

Director's Signature:

Please return to Lorraine Gruzkuk, lorraine.gruzuk@ontario.ca at The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat by June 30, 2007.