We cannot talk about raising student achievement without supporting the very people who make this happen. Ontario’s New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) recognizes the vital role teachers play in supporting student success. It provides beginning teachers with the professional development and individualized support they need during the critical first year of teaching. It also gives experienced teachers the opportunity to grow and deepen their professional practice through a new teacher mentoring process.

Ministry staff continue to visit school boards during this first full year of implementation in order to identify areas of need as well as effective practices. We believe that the successful implementation of the NTIP depends on strong collaborative relationships at the school, board, regional, and provincial levels and a common understanding of NTIP expectations, outcomes, and effective practices.

In order to support school boards in their NTIP goal-setting and planning for the 2007-2008 school year, the Ministry has developed a NTIP Implementation Continuum. This implementation continuum will serve as a self-assessment tool for school boards and will be an integral part of the 2007-2008 NTIP Plan template. The Ministry will hold regional sessions, in a variety of formats, to have school boards familiarize themselves and work with the NTIP Implementation Continuum as a tool to support the development of their 2007-2008 NTIP Plans. The session will include discussion on effective practices as well as challenges, determining next steps, and planning. Based on specific feedback from school boards, the Ottawa regional session will also include a presentation from Ruth Kane, Director of Teacher Education, Anglophone sector at the University of Ottawa.
I am writing to inform you of our session to be held for the Ottawa Region:

Date: Friday, April 27, 2007

Time: Registration begins at 8:30 am
Session 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Location: North Grenville Municipal Centre
285 County Road #44
Kemptville, Ontario
Room #: Suite B
For a map, link to http://www.northgrenville.on.ca/Maps/NGMC%20Map.JPG

Four people from each district school board are invited to attend: the NTIP contact person, NTIP superintendent, and two other participants involved in the planning and/or implementation of the induction elements of your board’s NTIP (e.g. personnel involved in planning and delivery of mentor training and other professional development, federation representative from your board’s NTIP steering committee, etc.). Research and effective practice emphasize the importance of strong relationships in the successful implementation of induction programs. As such, the Ministry strongly recommends that boards include the federation representative from their NTIP Steering Committee as part of the team attending this session. The school authorities and the Provincial Schools Authority are invited to send up to two representatives: the designated NTIP superintendent and a principal.

I would very much appreciate the attendance of your NTIP team at this session. Please confirm their attendance by completing the participation form below and submitting this participation form to your Regional NTIP Education Officer, Jill Bennett, at the Ottawa District Office, either by email (jill.bennett2@ontario.ca) or by fax (1-613-225-2881) no later than Friday, April 20, 2007.

The Ministry will reimburse travel expenses for four participants from each school board’s NTIP team and two participants from each school authority in accordance with the Ontario Management Board of Cabinet Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expense Directive. If you require accommodations, we are holding guestrooms at the Howard Johnsons on Highway 43 in Kemptville for the night of Thursday, April 26, 2007. You may call the Reservations Department at 1-613-258-5939 and state that you are with the Ministry of Education to receive the special group rate of $80.00 per night. Reservations should be made by Friday, April 20, 2007. Boards may include up to two additional participants; however, any travel and accommodation expenses for these additional participants will not be reimbursed by the Ministry.

If you require further information about the session, please contact Jill Bennett at the Ottawa Regional Office. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with your through the implementation of this initiative and to seeing your team at the April 27 session.

Sincerely,
cc. Designated NTIP Superintendents

NTIP Program Contacts

Paul Anthony, Director
Teaching Policy and Standards Branch

Ginette Plourde, Director
French Language Education Policy and Programs Branch

Kit Rankin, Director
Field Services Branch

Gene Lewis, General Secretary
Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario

Greg Pollock, General Secretary
Ontario English Catholic Teachers’ Association

Rod Albert, General Secretary
Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation