We are pleased to provide you with a copy of the Ministry of Education’s publication *Shared Solutions: A Guide to Preventing and Resolving Conflicts Regarding Programs and Services for Students With Special Education Needs*.

*Special Education Transformation: The Report of the Co-Chairs with the Recommendations of the Working Table on Special Education*, released in May 2006, recommended that the Ministry require school boards to develop informal dispute resolution processes for issues regarding programs and services for students with special education needs. As a result of these recommendations, the Ministry committed to provide a resource guide for parents and educators with recommended approaches to prevent and resolve conflict regarding special education programs and services.

*Shared Solutions* provides insight, strategies and practical examples of good communication, positive school climates, conflict prevention and conflict resolution. The guide is designed to be a hands on resource for parents and educators that provides information about programs and services for students with special education needs, and functional conflict prevention and resolution strategies and tips.

The resource guide is currently available on the Ministry of Education’s website at: [http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/shared.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/shared.pdf)
Each school board, school authority and provincial and demonstration school will receive an initial allocation of the resource guide, including 40 copies for school board administrative staff and three copies for each school. We would request that upon receipt, you distribute copies to your schools and one copy to each member of your Special Education Advisory Committee. If you or your schools require additional copies please request them from Publications Ontario on the Ministry of Education’s public website located at http://www.publications.serviceontario.ca/ecom/.

As you are aware, the Ministry will be providing one day professional development sessions for parents and educators hosted by each of the Ministry’s Regional Offices in support of the release of *Shared Solutions*. The sessions will include presentations on the key strategies found in the guide, along with facilitated discussion and role-playing exercises for educators and parents. All of the sessions will take place during October and November, 2007.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to support all students, including those with special education needs.

George Zegarac

Dominic Giroux