MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education  
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities  
Director, Provincial Schools Branch  
Director, French Language Policy and Programs Branch  
FROM: Bruce Drewett  
Director  
Special Education Policy and Programs Branch  
Joan Fullerton  
Regional Manager  
Barrie Regional Office  
DATE: October 2, 2007  
SUBJECT: Regional Professional Development Sessions for Shared Solutions: A Guide to Preventing and Resolving Conflicts Regarding Programs and Services for Students With Special Education Needs  

In early October, 2007, all school boards, school authorities and provincial and demonstration schools will be receiving copies of Shared Solutions: A Guide to Preventing and Resolving Conflicts Regarding Programs and Services for Students With Special Education Needs. This resource guide provides insight, strategies and practical examples of effective 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.

Each school board, school authority and provincial and demonstration school will receive an initial allocation of the resource guide, (40 copies for school board administrative staff and three copies for each school). Please distribute copies to your schools. If you require extra copies, please request them from Publications Ontario at http://www.publications.serviceontario.ca/ecom/.

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
Please provide each member of your Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) with a copy of the resource guide.

In order to maximize the effective use of *Shared Solutions* by parents and educators, the ministry will be providing one day professional development sessions for parents and educators hosted by each of the ministry’s regional offices. One provincial French language session has also been arranged. The professional development sessions will include a keynote speaker on effective communication, and conflict prevention and resolution. 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. The date and location for the Barrie regional sessions are as follows:

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<th>Date(s) of Sessions</th>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, October 23, 2007</strong> 8:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Horseshoe Resort, Fairways Ballroom</strong> 110 Horseshoe Valley Road Barrie ON L4M 4Y8 <a href="http://www.horseshoeresort.com">www.horseshoeresort.com</a> <strong>Accommodations:</strong> Please reserve your room, if eligible, by calling directly to 705-835-2790 by the <strong>October 14, 2007</strong> deadline. The rooms are blocked under the Ministry of Education Special Education.</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, November 1, 2007</strong> 8:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Holiday Inn, Regency BC Ballroom</strong> 150 George Street North Peterborough ON K9J 3G5 <a href="http://www.holiday-inn.com/waterfront">www.holiday-inn.com/waterfront</a> <strong>Accommodations:</strong> Please reserve your room, if eligible, by calling directly to 705-743-1144 by the <strong>October 15, 2007</strong> deadline. The rooms are blocked under the Ministry of Education Special Education.</td>
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In order to maximize the potential of these sessions to influence the integration of conflict resolution strategies in school boards into each classroom, each school board is asked to send the following representatives to the regional sessions:

- two parents nominated by their Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- a representative from the Parent Involvement Committee at your school board
- an educator responsible for professional development in your school board
- a Principal or Coordinator of Special Education
- the Superintendent responsible for special education
- a member of a community agency involved in providing services to your school board
Provincial and Demonstration Schools and school authorities may send two delegates per location. Reasonable travel and accommodation expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with Government of Ontario policies and procedures. Please see the attached reimbursement guidelines.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Sirdevan, james.sirdevan@ontario.ca at 705-725-7156/1-800-632-1602 or Len Godin, len.godin@ontario.ca at 705-725-7499/1-866-699-3969. Please return your completed registration form to our office by **Monday, October 15, 2007**.

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

Bruce Drewett  
Joan Fullerton

Attachments