April 4, 2008

Dear colleagues,

It is an honour to be starting my tenure as Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education.

Ontario is building a strong international reputation in education. Literacy, graduation and other student achievement measures are on the rise, and people around the world are taking notice.

Partnership is an important factor in Ontario’s successful approach. Former deputy Philip Steenkamp and Minister Kathleen Wynne speak very highly of the collaborative approach that Ontario has taken to improve the publicly funded education system. They tell me that everyone here shares a common vision to raise student achievement.

This was a big reason for my decision to move to Ontario from Wales. I spent the last two years there leading the Department of Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills. Previously, I worked in a number of senior positions in education with Australian state governments. In each of those jobs, I focused on bringing people in the education community together to find ways to enhance student performance and well-being. I promise to bring that same approach to my new role in Ontario.

Over the coming months, I look forward to meeting you to discuss how we can work together. I’ll be relying on your strong advice and deep knowledge to help continue building Ontario’s positive momentum in education.

I understand the ministry’s tagline is “reach every student.” I think that is something very noble to strive for. And I look forward to working with you to achieve that vision.

Sincerely,

Steve Marshall
Deputy Minister of Education