April 22, 2009

Dear Colleagues:

Elected school boards are the strength of Ontario’s publicly funded education system. In November 2008, I established a Governance Review Committee to make recommendations on what we could do as a government to strengthen the role of boards in promoting student achievement.

On February 20, I received a progress report from the committee that provided their views on matters which could require legislative changes. And on April 20, I received their final report and am pleased to share it with you today.

The committee includes highly respected members of the school board sector. Committee chair Madeleine Chevalier is a past chair of the Conseil des écoles catholiques de langue française du Centre-Est and former chair of the fédération nationale des conseils scolaires de langue française. Other members include:

- **Harold Brathwaite**, executive director of the Retired Teachers of Ontario and former Director of Education of the Peel District School Board;
- **Denis Chartrand**, former Director of Education, Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario and former chair of the Council of Directors of Education;
- **Penny Milton**, CEO, Canadian Education Association; former chair of the Toronto Board of Education, former executive director of OPSBA and former Ontario Deputy Minister of the Ontario Premier's Council on Health, Well-being and Social Justice;
- **Paula Peroni**, president of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association, vice-president of the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association and chair of the Sudbury Catholic District School Board;
- **Peggy Sattler**, member and former chair of the Thames Valley District School Board and member of the Board of Directors of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.
The committee met with 137 trustees, 54 directors of education and 71 parent representatives. They also received 148 written responses to the consultation paper posted on the Ministry’s website and met with several governance experts.

This was a highly committed committee and I am exceedingly grateful for their hard work. They took the time to listen to our partners in the sector, debate complex issues and work as a team to agree on recommendations.

I am also grateful to those who took the time to attend hearings and respond to the consultation paper.

Over the next few weeks, I will be giving the committee’s recommendations very thoughtful consideration and will be introducing legislation some time in the spring.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Education