MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education  
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities  
Director, Provincial Schools Branch

FROM: Ben Levin  
Deputy Minister

DATE: April 8, 2009

SUBJECT: Working Group on the Elementary Curriculum

I am writing to inform you that the Minister has asked the Curriculum Council to examine the elementary curriculum. As you are aware, there has been some concern that the elementary curriculum is “over-crowded” and this has prompted a broader discussion about the elementary curriculum.

A Working Group has been convened at the request of the Curriculum Council to gather information and provide expert advice to inform the deliberations of the Council on this matter. The Working Group will review inter-jurisdictional research on elementary curriculum, conduct consultations, gather information and engage in discussion. Following this, the Working Group will provide advice to the Curriculum Council that will inform the development of the elementary component of a new K-12 school policy and program document.

The Co-Chairs of the Working Group are Gerry Connelly, Director of Education, Toronto District School Board and Jean-Luc Bernard, Director of Education, Conseil scolaire de district du Centre Sud-Ouest.
The members of the Working Group include:

Kathy Broad - Executive Director, Initial Teacher Education OISE/UT
Tony Ceelen - Principal, Halton Catholic District School Board
Gen Ling Chang - Supervisory Officer, Toronto District School Board
Elaine Dénommé - Principal, Conseil scolaire public du Nord-Est de L’Ontario
Judy Reuben - Principal, Oliver M. Smith-Kawennio:io School
André Savard - Principal, Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud
Kathy Smeeth - Curriculum Co-ordinator, Rainy River District School Board
Sylvie Tremblay - Supervisory Officer, Conseil des écoles catholiques de langue française du Centre-Est.

The Curriculum Council will provide advice to the Minister on the elementary curriculum later in the 2009-2010 school year.

We welcome this opportunity to continue to work with you to improve student achievement.

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Ben Levin

Cc: Kit Rankin, Director, Field Services Branch
    Regional Office Managers