

**Ministry of Education**

Deputy Minister

Mowat Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Sous-ministre

Édifice Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



**Memorandum To:** Directors of Education  
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School  
Authorities

**From:** Bruce Rodrigues  
Deputy Minister

**Date:** April 20, 2018

**Subject:** Release of the Curriculum Policy Documents for: *Social Studies, Grades 1 – 6; History and Geography, Grades 7 – 8 (2018); Canadian and World Studies, Grades 9 – 10 (2018); Cooperative Education, Grades 11 – 12 (2018); First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies; and Course Descriptions & Prerequisites Resource Document (2018)*

---

The Ministry is pleased to announce that the curriculum policy documents for The Ontario Curriculum, *Social Studies, Grades 1 – 6; History and Geography, Grades 7 – 8 (2018), Canadian and World Studies, Grades 9 – 10 (2018), Cooperative Education, Grades 11 – 12 (2018), and Course Descriptions & Prerequisites Resource Document (2018)* have been posted on the Ministry of Education website <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca> for school boards, school authorities, schools and other education stakeholders to access. The Ministry has also released draft versions of five *First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies* courses in a memo on April 6, 2018.

***Social Studies, Grades 1 – 6; History and Geography, Grades 7 – 8 and Canadian and World Studies, Grades 9 – 10***

The revisions to *Social Studies, Grades 1 – 6; History and Geography, Grades 7 – 8* and *Canadian and World Studies, Grades 9 – 10* support Ontario's commitment to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. On May 30, 2016, Premier Wynne delivered a speech "Ontario Apologizes for Residential Schools and releases the Action Plan for Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples" where she outlined that the government would take steps to enhance mandatory learning about the histories of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people and the legacy of colonialism:

*“We will educate all Ontarians about the horrors of the residential school system, the betrayals of past governments and our rights and responsibilities as treaty people -- because in Ontario, we are all treaty people. This will include the work we are doing to ensure our education curriculum teaches every child in Ontario the truth about our past and what it means for all of us today.”*

Over the past two years, the Ministry has worked with First Nations, Métis and Inuit partners to co-develop the revisions to the curriculum. Ministry staff worked in collaboration with Indigenous teachers, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Senators, Indigenous community representatives, and residential school survivors to develop age- and grade-appropriate Social Studies and History curriculum. Indigenous partners also brought to this work both their knowledge and expertise in how to present sensitive topics in an appropriate and accessible way. Revisions to the curriculum focus on strengthening understanding about Indigenous perspectives, cultures, histories and ways of knowing as well as the history of the residential school system, treaties and the Indian Act.

The Ministry understands that school boards/authorities have already begun to use the previously released pre-publication version of *Social Studies, Grades 1 – 6; History and Geography, Grades 7 – 8* and *Canadian and World Studies, Grades 9 – 10* to guide their own implementation training and to plan for next year. Mandatory implementation of these documents begins in September 2018.

We are pleased to have supported school boards and authorities in implementing these revised curriculum documents through funding and regional implementation sessions. These sessions ran from December 2017 to January 2018.

The next phase of revisions has begun and will focus on *Social Studies, Grades 1 – 3; Geography, Grade 9; Civics and Citizenship, Grade 10* and select senior courses from *Canadian and World Studies, Grades 11 – 12* and *Social Sciences and Humanities, Grades 9 – 12*.

### **Cooperative Education, Grades 11 – 12**

The new Cooperative Education document includes both curriculum and policy related to the implementation of cooperative education. It will replace *Cooperative Education and Other Forms of Experiential Learning: Policies and Procedures for Ontario Secondary Schools, 2000*. Schools offering cooperative education are required to implement this curriculum policy document beginning September 2018. Course descriptions and codes, and other information about cooperative education courses were provided in a [memo](#) from the Student Achievement Division in December 2017.

We are also pleased to support school boards and authorities in implementing Cooperative Education through regional implementation sessions. These sessions began in April and will continue through May, 2018. Information about these regional sessions was provided in a separate [memo](#) in February 2018.

### ***Course Descriptions & Prerequisites Resource Document***

The resource document *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 to 12: Course Descriptions and Prerequisites, 2018* will assist students, with the help of their parents, teachers, and guidance counsellors, in selecting the courses that will put them on the right path to their postsecondary destination.

The *Course Descriptions and Prerequisites, 2018* contains the course descriptions for all courses in Grades 9 to 12, along with course lists (including course codes) and Prerequisite charts, in the following subjects/disciplines: The Arts, Business Studies, Canadian and World Studies, Classical Studies and International Languages, Computer Studies, Cooperative Education, English, English as a Second Language and English Literacy Development, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies, French as a Second Language, Guidance and Career Education, Health and Physical Education, Interdisciplinary Studies, Mathematics, Native Languages (to be named Indigenous Languages), Science, Social Sciences and Humanities, and Technological Education.

This 2018 resource document will supersede the same document that was posted on the ministry's website in 2011. This document will be updated in subsequent years to reflect changes in courses and course codes resulting from the refresh of the Ontario curriculum.

### ***First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies***

On April 6, 2018, draft versions of five *First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies* courses were released in advance of the upcoming final release of the revised *First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies* curriculum.

These courses were revised in order to strengthen content relating to contemporary and traditional First Nations, Métis, and Inuit cultures, histories, perspectives, and worldviews. This includes the legacy of the residential school system, treaties, legislation, and policies that directly impact First Nations, Métis, and Inuit individuals, communities, and nations. Ministry staff worked in collaboration with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit teachers, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Senators, community representatives, and residential school survivors to make these revisions.

An additional five courses are currently in the editing phase and will be included in the Summer release. They are as follows:

- NDA3M – Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Issues and Perspectives
- NBV3C/3E – World Views and Aspirations of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Communities in Canada
- NDG4M – First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Governance in Canada
- NDW4M – Contemporary Indigenous Issues and Perspectives in a Global Context

We anticipate a final release in Summer 2018 to support a soft implementation over the 2018-19 school year.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Ministry's curriculum review process and for your leadership in the implementation of these revised curriculum policy documents.

Sincerely,



Bruce Rodrigues

cc:

Martyn Beckett, Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Student Achievement Officer,  
Student Achievement Division

Denys Giguère, Assistant Deputy Minister, French-Language Teaching,  
Learning and Achievement Division

Denise Dwyer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Indigenous Education and Well-  
Being Division

Shirley Kendrick, Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Support and Field  
Services Division

Yael Ginsler, Director, Curriculum, Assessment and Student Success Policy  
Branch

Lillian Patry, Director, French-Language Teaching and Learning Branch

Debra Cormier, Director, Field Services Branch

Bruce Shaw, Director, Student Achievement Support Branch

Dianne Oliphant, Manager, Curriculum, Assessment and Student Success  
Policy Branch

Michel St-Amant, Manager, French-Language Teaching and Learning Branch  
Regional Office Managers