MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretary-Treasurers and Supervisory Officers of School Authorities

FROM: Sue Durst
Director
Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch

Ginette Plourde
Director
French-Language Education Policy and Programs Branch

DATE: August 14, 2009

SUBJECT: Regional Environmental Education Leadership

As you are aware, *Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow: A Policy Framework for Environmental Education in Ontario Schools* was released in February 2009 in order to guide the implementation of environmental education in boards and schools across the province beginning in September 2009. The policy framework focuses on three goal areas:

- teaching and learning,
- student engagement and community connections, and
- environmental leadership.

In order to support implementation of this policy framework a Regional Environmental Education Lead (REEL) position will be established in each of the 6 English-language and 3 French-language regions.

The role of the Regional Environmental Education Lead (REEL) will be to:

- support boards in their region in revising or developing a board environmental education policy aligned with the provincial policy framework;
- establish a network of environmental education contacts in all boards in the region, including student leaders;
- develop and share a network of community partners who can assist schools and boards in accessing and enhancing resources that support teaching and learning about environmental education; and
• develop a provincial and regional plan for building and sustaining environmental education leadership capacity.

The Ministry of Education will fund these nine (9) positions (6 English-language and 3 French-language) for the coming year, September 2009-August 2010. In keeping with other similar processes, it will be left to the discretion of the boards within each region to determine how to move forward in filling these positions. Options could include posting the position or appointing the REEL. It is requested that a decision be reached by each region and the Ministry be notified by September 15, 2009.

For your information, the REEL will remain employed by his or her board in the given region, and will remain a full-time employee of the board, assigned to fulfilling the roles and responsibilities of the position. The REEL will be paid by the board at his/her current level of salary and benefits, for which the board will be reimbursed by the Ministry. The Ministry will also reimburse the board for necessary travel expenses, according to Ministry guidelines. The Ministry will work with the REEL’s board to determine appropriate office accommodation in the region.

Expenses associated with supporting approved environmental education leadership activities developed and co-ordinated by the REEL in each region will be funded separately, through an agreement with the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE).

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Karen Gill at Karen.gill@ontario.ca for more information.

Thank you for your continuing support of environmental education in Ontario.

Original signed by

Sue Durst

Original signed by

Ginette Plourde

cc: K. Rankin, Director, Field Services Branch
A. Bigwin, Director, Aboriginal Education Office
B. Davies, Director, Provincial Schools Branch
Regional Offices