MEMORANDUM TO: Chairs of English Catholic district school boards

FROM: Laurel Broten
Minister

DATE: August 2, 2012

SUBJECT: Additional information on the Funding Framework for Local Bargaining

Over the past few weeks, there have been a number of public announcements, ministry memos and other communications regarding the current status of labour negotiations and our expectations of school boards. I also recognize that these communications, as well as the changing status of labour negotiations, have raised some questions for Catholic school board trustees.

That is why, as a follow-up to my announcement on Monday, July 30, I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the government’s expectations with respect to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Education and the Ontario English Catholic Teachers’ Association (OECTA).

The implementation of the MOU will enable Catholic school boards to meet their required fiscal objectives over the next two years, without compromising the classroom experience for students. In addition, the MOU includes a provision that would ensure existing contracts do not roll over at the end of August 2012, while providing an opportunity for local bargaining to continue on other non-monetary items until December 31, 2012.

Since the MOU would allow boards to balance their budgets without impacting the classroom, it is the government’s expectation that Catholic school boards will implement the MOU in its entirety. Unlike public school boards, there is no need for Catholic school boards to apply for conciliation with OECTA during the local bargaining period, as you have already been provided with an agreement that has been signed by the provincial federation.
It is critical for Catholic school boards to move forward and implement the MOU before the start of the 2012-13 school year. By implementing the MOU signed with OECTA, we can continue the labour peace and stability that has so greatly benefitted students since 2003.

Laurel Broten
Minister

c: Directors of Education of English Catholic School Boards