This month, the ministry launched an initiative to update, consolidate, coordinate and clarify policy for assessing, evaluating and reporting student achievement. The initiative was announced at the symposium held on January 8 and 9. We want to thank you for sending a team of educators to participate in the symposium and hope they found it to be good professional development. In addition, we very much appreciate your approval of their participation in our work over the next 18 months. Our goal during this time is to develop a Kindergarten to Grade 12 policy document, which will be implemented in September 2009.

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of this process.

Growing Success document
Growing Success is a working document. We have developed it as a reference to facilitate discussion and consultation. Early in February, we will send your board team leads enough copies so each of your schools may have one. The document has also been published on the Ontario Curriculum Unit Planner Web site at: <http://ocup.org/resources/index.htm>.

Growing Success board teams
Your board teams have identified leads and our ministry leads have begun to work with them directly. To begin, the team leads have been requested:
• To collect board policy documents and/or support materials related to assessment, evaluation and reporting and forward the documents — in electronic or hard copy — to the ministry leads.

• To organize your board’s response to a questionnaire posted on Survey Monkey. Each board is requested to submit one response. The purpose of the survey is to (1) identify policy that needs to be clarified or updated, (2) identify policy issues and suggest possible solutions, and (3) identify supports and/or professional development the ministry can provide to meet the needs of your teachers.

Ministry *Growing Success* leads
For English-language boards, the ministry lead is:
- Michael O’Gorman
  - Education Officer
  - Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch
  - 16th Floor, Mowat Block
  - 900 Bay Street
  - Toronto ON M7A 1L2
  - Telephone: (416) 325-2336
  - Fax: (416) 325-2575
  - E-mail: <michael.ogorman@ontario.ca>

For French-language boards, the ministry lead is:
- Lyne Lemieux
  - Education Officer
  - French-language Education Policy and Programs Branch
  - 8th Floor, Mowat Block
  - 900 Bay Street
  - Toronto ON M7A 1L2
  - Telephone: (416) 325-4243
  - Fax: (416) 325-8633
  - E-mail: <lyne.lemieux@ontario.ca>

**Funding**
Each board team is allocated a base budget of **$5000**. Board teams with over six members are allocated an extra $300 for each additional team member. (Team membership is based on the number of delegates allotted to each board for the Provincial Symposium on Assessment and Evaluation.)

These funds are provided to cover board team costs such as release time, printing, travel and accommodations. Board team leads are being requested to send invoices for costs to the ministry leads not later than March 21, 2008.

**Future consultation**
In April and May of 2008, the ministry will schedule regional meetings with the board teams. At these meetings, the ministry leads will share information gathered from the survey, the analysis of board documents, the elementary report card pilot project, consultations about the secondary report card, and reviews of national and international
policies. Teams will be asked to assist in building a consensus around best assessment, evaluation and reporting K-12 policy.

In September through November, 2008, the ministry will seek feedback on a draft of a assessment, evaluation and reporting K-12 policy document.

The costs incurred by boards related to these future consultations will be assumed by the ministry.

**Other stakeholder consultation**
The ministry will also conduct similar consultations with our other education stakeholders to include teacher federations, superintendent associations, principal councils, and parent associations.

We very much look forward to working with your boards on this most important undertaking. We know that together we can achieve excellence, improve the achievement of our students and build public confidence.

_________________________   _________________________
Sue Durst       Ginette Plourde

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c. Kit Rankin, Director, Field Services Branch
   Regional Managers
   John Ryall, Manager, Assessment and Reporting Unit
   Suzanne Seguin, Manager, French-language Curriculum Unit
   Michael O’Gorman, Education Officer, Assessment and Reporting Unit
   Lyne Lemieux, Education Officer, French-language Education Policy and Programs Branch