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

FROM: Sue Durst
Director
Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch

DATE: February 1, 2010

SUBJECT: Supports for Literacy Leaders, Grades 7-12

As announced previously this fall, the Literacy GAINS initiative has planned professional learning sessions to take place in the six regions of the province. The intent of this communication is to provide details about the Supports for Literacy Leaders, Grades 7-12 initiative.

The focus of Supports for Literacy Leaders, Grades 7-12 is job-embedded professional learning to build the capacity of every teacher to reach every student and to target areas of identified literacy needs. The intended outcomes of each regional session are for participants to:

- develop awareness of the Literacy GAINS initiative for grades 7-12
- expand their understanding of current research on adolescent literacy from cross-curricular and subject-specific perspectives
- expand their understanding of current research on boys’ literacy
- plan for professional learning opportunities in their boards using resources developed by the Ministry of Education, including
  - Me Read? And How!
  - Supports for Boys’ Literacy CD-ROM
  - Literacy GAINS resources posted on www.edugains.ca

Each board is invited to send one team, consisting of at least four (4) and at most eight (8) educators to a one-day professional learning session. A board team may be comprised of adolescent and boys’ literacy leaders and subject-specific literacy leaders. Board participants may include:

- elementary and/or secondary administrator
- student success leader
- literacy coordinator/consultant
- subject-specific coordinator/consultant
- literacy coach and/or resource teacher
- student success teacher
- classroom teacher
The same session will be offered in March and April in 8 different regional locations – Toronto, Ottawa, Kingston, London, Hamilton, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and Barrie. Details about dates, times, and locations can be found on the attached registration page.

- Travel, accommodation, and supply teacher costs will be covered by the Supports for Literacy Leaders, Grades 7-12 initiative for four participants from each board.
- Travel, accommodation, and supply teacher costs for additional participants to a maximum of 4 will be the responsibility of the board.
- The Supports for Literacy Leaders, Grades 7-12 initiative will cover the cost of a continental breakfast, and lunch each day for all participants.

A memo sent by the Student Success/Learning to 18 Branch in June 2009 provided details regarding the grades 7-12 Mathematics and Literacy Professional Learning Strategy. This memo indicated that boards may choose to apply their allocations to professional learning opportunities, such as these Supports for Literacy Leaders, Grades 7-12 sessions, for board and school leaders. Boards are encouraged to use some of these funds for this purpose.

We look forward to working with you and supporting professional learning for adolescent literacy educators. Thank you for your ongoing support.

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Sue Durst

Attachment

cc: K. Rankin, Director, FSB
    P. Manson and E. Newman, Senior Executive Officers, LNS
    D. Euale, Director, SS/L18, Implementation, Training & Evaluation Branch
    A. Bigwin, Director, AEO
    Regional Managers