MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities
Principals of Provincial and Demonstration Schools

FROM: Marg Connor
Director
Learning Environment Branch

DATE: February 20, 2013

RE: New edition of “Copyright Matters! - Some Key Questions and Answers for Teachers”

 Amendments to the Copyright Act in June 2012 and a Supreme Court decision in July 2012 have established new rules for the educational use of copyright-protected materials (including a new “fair dealing” provision for education). As a result of these new rules, the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) revised its publication entitled Copyright Matters! to provide the education community with updated user-friendly information about copyright law, including guidelines on the application of the fair dealing provision for non-profit elementary and secondary schools across Canada.

As a member of the pan-Canadian Copyright Consortium of CMEC, the Ministry of Education is committed to encouraging awareness and compliance with copyright law in the publicly funded school system. To support school boards in understanding their rights and obligations under the new copyright rules, the ministry is pleased to provide copies of the Copyright Matters! booklet for distribution to every teacher and school administrator (principal and vice-principal) in your school board. As well, an additional 2 copies have been printed for each school office.

An electronic copy of the booklet and additional information about copyright in Canada is available on the CMEC website (www.cmec.ca). If you have any questions about the distribution of the Copyright Matters! booklet, please contact your Ministry Regional Office or Guylaine Rheault-Oliver, Learning Environment Branch, at 416-212-1347 or Guylaine.rheault-oliver@ontario.ca.

The ministry will also be releasing a Policy/Program Memorandum (P/PM) to provide additional clarification of the responsibilities of school boards when using copyright-protected materials for educational purposes. We anticipate releasing the P/PM in the coming months.

Marg Connor
Director, Learning Environment Branch

Attachment

c. Regional Managers, Ministry of Education Regional Offices
   Nancy Sanders, Director, Provincial Schools Branch, Ministry of Education