Memorandum To: Directors of Education
Director of Provincial Schools Branch
Board Leadership Development Strategy Supervisory Officers
Board Leadership Development Strategy Leads

From: George Zegarac
Deputy Minister

Date: February 20, 2015

Subject: Ontario Leadership Congress/Spring Symposium 2015

It is my pleasure to invite you to identify a senior team from your district to participate in the Ontario Leadership Congress/Spring Symposium 2015 (OLC/SS 2015) to be held on April 28th and 29th, 2015 at the International Plaza in Toronto.

Please distribute this invitation and the attachments to all participants as soon as possible. Participants are asked to complete a Reflective Activity in Preparation for Congress/Symposium 2015 as a team by March 13, 2015. More details regarding registration are provided in the attached material.

Congress/Symposium is an Ontario Leadership Strategy commitment and an annual event since 2009 that brings together a team of school and system leaders from each district in Ontario to focus on enhancing student achievement and well-being. It provides an opportunity to bring expert leaders together to share knowledge about provincial priorities and to gather and mobilize this knowledge so that many others may benefit. You can learn more about these highly engaging and successful events at: www.ontario.ca/eduleadership.

This year the Ontario Leadership Congress will be consolidated with the Spring Provincial Symposium. The theme will be “Realizing the Renewed Vision through Transformational Leadership”. A draft agenda is attached for your information. The theme, sessions and conversations will be a follow-up to the Fall Regional Symposia and will build forward momentum by deepening the focus on the “how” for implementing Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario.
Outcomes for the Ontario Leadership Congress/Spring Symposium 2015 are to:

- co-construct and share knowledge about how system and school leaders build coherence directed towards the achievement of provincial, board and school goals;

- share scaling strategies of adapting successful innovation that results in clear improvements in student achievement and well-being;

- strengthen the Board Leadership Development Strategy (BLDS) to have greater impact with regard to creating the conditions for distributed leadership and collaborative learning.

Education Advisors to the Minister

*Achieving Excellence* sets out ambitious goals for education in the province. It focuses on what Ontarians view as essential outcomes for our students. The exciting next step in realizing this vision is to implement innovative and transformational changes, allowing us to move to the next level in Ontario education. The four education advisors appointed by Minister Sandals will accompany and engage us on this journey.

- **Dr. Carol Campbell:** Associate Professor, Leadership and Educational Change, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.

- **Dr. Jean Clinton:** Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster, Division of Child Psychiatry.

- **Dr. Michael Fullan:** Professor Emeritus of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.

- **Dr. Andy Hargreaves:** Thomas More Brennan Chair in the Lynch School of Education at Boston College, with the mission to promote social justice and connect theory and practice in education.

Identifying District Participants and Registration

All districts are invited to send a senior team of six participants to the congress as described in the attached *Instructions to Districts* document. The *Instructions to Districts* document and the *Ontario Leadership Congress/Spring Symposium 2015 Expenses Reimbursement Guide* (attached) include important information about the 2015 registration process and expense reimbursement.

We will offer a webcast of selected events of the day for those who are not participating as part of the district team. Further information will follow.

Completing the Reflective Activity in Preparation for Congress/Symposium

Each district team is requested to complete a Reflective Activity in Preparation for Congress/Symposium 2015. The Reflective Activity is to be completed as a team. The responses district teams will provide are critically important as they will be used to organize networking activities and information shared at Congress/Symposium. Responses from districts generated through the Reflective Activity must be submitted to the ministry on or before **March 13, 2015**.
It is recommended that the Board Leadership Development Strategy Lead become familiar with all attached information and convene the team participants as soon as possible to complete the Reflective Activity.

If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Swan, Leadership Development and School Board Governance Branch, at 416-325-7198 or ruth.swan@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your continued support of this important initiative. We look forward to engaging system and school leaders in focused conversations and discussions as we continue to support Ontario’s two million students in reaching their potential.

Sincerely,

George Zegarac
Deputy Minister

Attachments:

1. OLC/SS 2015 Overview – Realizing the Renewed Vision Through Transformational Leadership
2. Draft Agenda
3. Reflective Activity in Preparation for OLC/SS 2015
4. Instructions to Districts
5. OLC/SS 2015 Expense Reimbursement Guidelines
6. OLC/SS 2015 District Summary of Expenses Template

c: John Malloy, ADM, Leadership and Learning Environment Division

Grant Clarke, ADM, Learning and Curriculum Division

Gabriel Sékaly, ADM, Financial Policy and Business Division

Jim Grieve, ADM, Early Years Division

Janine Griffore, ADM, French Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division

Mary Jean Gallagher, ADM, Student Achievement Division

Regional Managers, Field Services Branch

Board Leadership Development Strategy Regional Education Officers

Institute for Education Leadership

Council of Ontario Directors of Education