This memorandum is to provide you with information about upcoming optional virtual professional development opportunities in relation to the updated curriculum for Health and Physical Education, Grades 1 to 8, 2015 and Health and Physical Education, Grades 9 to 12, 2015. Below, resources currently available to support curriculum implementation are also highlighted.

**Professional Development:**
Implementation of this curriculum began in September 2015. There are many aspects of this curriculum including Human Development and Sexual Health that are important to approach with sensitivity. Instruction of much of the human development and sexual health component of the Health and Physical Education curriculum often occurs in classrooms in late winter and spring. To support boards in providing professional learning opportunities related to this part of the curriculum, the ministry is hosting two optional virtual Adobe Connect sessions focusing on the **human development** and **sexual health** component of the curriculum.

The session will assist educators in enhancing their understanding about:
- The human development and sexual health component of the 2015 curriculum;
- Effective approaches for sexual health education instruction;
- Key changes to this part of the curriculum and related rationale/research;
- Ministry-developed materials to support educators and parents – parent guides, quick facts; and
Materials developed by partners.

The session will also include interactive components to facilitate knowledge exchange between educators as well as opportunities for reflecting on how this learning can be applied in local settings.

Session Details:
- Session 1: Tuesday, February 16, 12:30pm – 1:30pm; or
- Session 2: Wednesday, February 17, 3:30pm – 4:30pm.
*Staff can choose to participate in either Session 1 or Session 2 (sessions are identical).

The information presented will be applicable in both elementary and secondary settings. This opportunity is open to board staff (e.g., curriculum lead, department heads) with responsibility for Health and Physical Education to participate. Classroom educators (elementary/secondary); mental health leads; equity or safe schools leads, Principals/Vice Principals, and/or Superintendents/Directors are also welcome. Participants are encouraged to participate as a team from a single location and computer, if feasible (bandwidth on the Adobe platform has limitations). Public health representatives will also be invited to attend. Where possible, board and public health representatives may find it valuable to participate in the session together.

Reimbursement for release time and/or travel-related costs is not available for these optional online sessions.

Registration
We request that interested staff register, either individually or as a team, for a session at Eventbrite Registration page.

Registered participants are asked to join the session a few minutes before the scheduled start time at the Adobe Connect HPE webinar site

The audio portion of the session will be administered via teleconference:
Toll-free: 1 866-602-5461
Local: 416-212-8011
Conference ID / Passcode: 1230820, then press ‘#’ key

Please direct any questions from about session registration to Sean Kerr (sean.kerr@ontario.ca; 416-212-5700).

Implementation Supports:
As you know, a wide range of supports and resources have been made available by the ministry and education partners including Ophea, the Institute for Catholic Education, the Ontario Principals’ Council, Catholic Principals’ Council of Ontario as well as the Sex Information and Education Council of Canada.
The ministry has developed a variety of resources for parents including guides, grade-by-grade overviews and quick fact sheets on key topics. These materials, which aim to build understanding about the content of the curriculum, are available online on the ministry’s webpage in multiple languages (see the section: ‘Resource Documents Specific to this Subject’). Hard copies of materials can also be ordered, whether for an entire board, school, or individual classroom, at no charge from Service Ontario.

**Service Ontario Ordering Instructions:** Log in to [www.serviceontario.ca/publications](http://www.serviceontario.ca/publications) using your EDU username (e.g., EDU1234-1) and password and select ‘Health & Phys. Ed. Parent Materials’ in ‘Browse Catalogues’ section. If you do not know your log-in credentials, school principals or Directors of Education can email webpubont-EDU@ontario.ca for assistance.

We applaud the work of boards and educators in working with local parents and community groups to respond to questions or concerns and to build understanding about the updated curriculum. Together, through open communication and partnership, we contribute to the health, safety and well-being of Ontario’s children and youth.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Karen Gill

Denys Giguère

cc:

Dr. Steven Reid, Director, FSB
Louise Sirisko, Director, SEPPB
June Rogers, Director, PSB
Shirley Carder, Director (A), AEO
Demetra Saldaris, Director, TPS
Ruth Flynn, Director, EIEB
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