MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Alayne Bigwin
Director
Aboriginal Education Office

DATE: February 1, 2011

SUBJECT: Métis Nation of Ontario Survey

On August 23, 2009 the Ministry of Education and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the interest of improving the educational outcomes of Métis students in Ontario, and supporting the implementation of the Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework.

Pursuant to this, the ministry is supporting the MNO in various activities including research to identify best practices to support Métis student achievement and promote voluntary Aboriginal student self-identification by Métis students. To support this deliverable, the MNO has contracted Dr. Jonathan Anuik from Lakehead University and Laura-Lee Bellehumeur-Kearns from St. Francis Xavier University to conduct this independent research on their behalf.

Dr. Anuik and Ms. Bellehumeur-Kearns are interested in learning more about what school boards are doing in this area and will be distributing a survey to school boards - Métis Education Barriers, Challenges, Opportunities, and Best Practices: Foundations and Practices to Support Métis Education in Ontario - over the next few weeks. You may wish to utilize this vehicle to showcase the great work your board is doing in support of Métis students as one component of First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework implementation.

Should you have any questions about this initiative, please contact Shirley Carder, Team Lead, K-12 Policy, at (416) 325-4404 or at shirley.carder@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Alayne Bigwin
Director
Aboriginal Education Office