March 29, 2007

Dear Colleague,

As you may recall, we issued a Healthy Schools Challenge in December 2006. We challenged all Ontario schools — and their students, teachers, principals, parents and community partners — to do just one more thing to make their schools healthier in 2006/07.

The response to this initiative has been tremendous. Hundreds of schools in well over half of all boards have risen to the challenge by making a pledge to become healthier, and they are being credited under the Healthy Schools Recognition Program. In addition, we have heard of many exciting activities and programs that were already taking place in schools this year to make them healthier places to learn.

Our sincere thanks and congratulations go out to those schools that have already accepted the challenge. There is still time to meet the deadline of April 15, 2007 if you wish to take part in this initiative.

Accepting the challenge is easy. A school identifies at least one activity or program that it plans to undertake to become healthier in this school year. Tell us about the challenge by completing a form and sending it to your board.

The Healthy Schools Challenge Acceptance Form can be found on the Ministry of Education’s website at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/challenge.html. To view the list of those schools that have already accepted the challenge, along with a description of their pledged activities, please visit www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/search.asp.

For additional resources and helpful tips, please visit the following:
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/foundations.html
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/tipsParentsStudents.html

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to Ontario’s students and your efforts to make our province’s schools healthier.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Education
Province of Ontario

The Honourable Jim Watson
Minister of Health Promotion
Province of Ontario