December 21, 2007

Dear student participant,

Last May, I met with you and almost 50 other elementary and secondary students from across the province to discuss an important topic – online respect and responsibility.

I want to thank you for sharing with us your thoughtful insights on how you are using technology and providing promising suggestions for responding to some of the issues raised, such as cyberbullying. You provided very valuable contributions to an important discussion.

I am pleased to share with you a summary of that discussion. Get Connected, Get in the Know: Online Respect and Responsibility will also be available on the Ministry of Education website at www.edu.gov.on.ca, and is being shared with school boards, schools, and the broader education community. We hope that this will spark discussions within schools, organizations, and communities.

Most of us use technologies like cell phones, e-mail, the Internet, or BlackBerrys on a daily basis. Young people in particular have a growing understanding of technologies and the online world, and are regularly using them. That is why I wanted to hear from you first about your experiences and perspectives on the responsible and respectful use of technology.

You told us during the discussion that technologies have many positive uses. They can help us to stay in touch, conduct research, and enhance learning opportunities. However, we also know that sometimes these technologies are being used in inappropriate ways.

By sharing this document broadly and discussing it in meetings, classrooms, assemblies, and informal conversations, you can help to engage other students and members of your school communities in this discussion and develop your own local solutions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Education