MEMORANDUM TO:  
Directors of Education  
Supervisory Officers of School Authority Boards  

FROM:  
Catherine Montreuil  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Learning and Curriculum Division  
Janine Griffore  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
French-language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division  

DATE:  
January 4, 2016  

SUBJECT:  
Invitation to Participate in Fourth Annual Provincial 21st Century Teaching and Learning Roundtable Event – February 9, 2016 in Toronto  

This is an invitation to all 72 district school boards, Provincial Schools and School Authorities to join the re-scheduled 21st Century Teaching and Learning Roundtable Event on February 9, 2016 at Chelsea Hotel on Gerrard St. W., in Toronto. This event is jointly-sponsored by the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) and the Ministry of Education.  

On behalf of the Ministry and CODE, we thank you for your leadership and continued participation in the collaborative 21st Century Innovation Research (Round 5), now integrated as part of the Technology and Learning Fund. Ontario is making progress on its renewed vision for education, Achieving Excellence, and your 21st Century Innovation Research projects are playing a key role. Round 4 evidence shows that the projects are of "central importance for continuing to develop clarity and compelling insights into a renewed vision for education in Ontario that can continue to move teaching and learning forward in the 21st Century."  

The February 2016 Roundtable Event provides an important and timely opportunity to come together as a sector to share and mobilize the innovation evidence and capacity being created in Ontario about effective strategies for scaling-up and systematizing pedagogy-driven, technology-enabled practices for optimizing learning.  

Event Logistics: The Roundtable program is scheduled as follows:  
- **Date:** Tuesday, February 9, 2016  
- **Time:** 8:30 am – 3:30 pm (Registration and light breakfast at 8:00 am)  
- **Location:** Chelsea Hotel, 33 Gerrard St. W., Toronto, ON M5G 1Z4, 416-595-1975  

The emerging trends and evidence from Round 4 in connection to 21st Century Learning and competencies will be important topics for discussion at the February 9th Roundtable. Please see the links in the resources section below for accessing the external research team's synopsis and full report on the overall results of Round 4 (2014-15).  

The goals of the 2016 Roundtable event are to:  
- **Showcase, situate and connect local innovation work within a broader context of provincial and international research about 21st century teaching and learning and in alignment with Ontario’s renewed vision for education;**  
- **Identify and deepen a shared understanding about key supporting conditions for scaling up effective practices in classrooms, schools, and districts that link pedagogy, technology-enabled learning, and 21st century competencies;**  
- **Share insights about what the Ministry of Education is learning from international research and Ontario’s innovation research about 21st Century competencies;**
- Offer a forum for knowledge mobilization around capacity building strategies to promote scaling-up effective practice and to gain insights into factors that may accelerate or constrain wider adoption of promising practices, and;
- Provide opportunities to develop professional networks and foster a professional learning community of innovation practitioners and change leaders.

District Teams and Registration
We invite you or your designate to participate with your board team of up to three (3) representatives from the 21st Century Innovation Research (Round 4) team. As you consider your team, it is important to note that one of the key findings from Round 4 is the growing understanding of the importance of leadership to scale innovative and transformative practices; therefore, it is suggested that your teams include school and/or system leaders as well as program and Information Technology Staff. Please consider the connections between and respective roles of your 21st Century Innovation Research Project Lead and/or your Technology enabled Learning and Teaching Contact (TELT-C). This event promises to further propel the momentum across the province as we gather to share and mobilize our collective insights on how, why, when and where we are impacting student learning. We are fortunate once again to be joined at our event by Dr. Chris Dede, Harvard University, who will bring important international context. Please visit the following link to register for this event (click here) by Friday, January 22, 2016.

Accommodations
Participants have the opportunity to book a room through the 21st Century Teaching and Learning hotel block at the:
- Chelsea Hotel, Toronto
  - To book call 1-800-CHELSEA (identify yourself as part of the “21st Century RT”);
  - Send an email to cstor.reservation@chelseatoronto.com (identify yourself as part of the “21st Century RT”);
  - Click here to book online and receive an instant confirmation number.
  - $129/night (single/double), $159/night (triple), $189/night (quad)

- Note that all rooms must be booked directly by you with the hotel by January 22, 2016. A limited number of rooms have been reserved and we strongly encourage you to make reservations as soon as possible, but no later than January 22, 2016.

Preparation for Gallery Walk
Teams will again have an opportunity to participate in a Gallery Walk during which connections may be made and learning may take place among innovation leaders across the province. Each district will have a ‘station’ (one member of each team will remain at the station), and participants will be able to stop, ask questions and learn from the innovation work underway in that district. As a follow-up to last year’s Roundtable Event, which focused on scaling up innovation projects, in this Gallery Walk we invite teams to visually present the strategies that they used during Round 4 in order to transform innovation practices into deeper and broader technology-enabled teaching and learning opportunities that demonstrably improve student outcomes. We encourage conversations that focus on processes and roles, and invite teams to share their answers to simple yet fundamental questions - what did scaling up look like within your district in 2014-15? What does scaling up look like in 2015-16?

Expenses
Please see Appendix A (attached) for a copy of the Roundtable expense claim form and refer to the government’s directive (attached) for eligible expenses. As per the instructions on this form, claims are to be filled out following the Roundtable Event on February 9, 2016, and returned to the 21st Century Learning Unit no later than March 11, 2016. (Please note, the Ministry cannot guarantee re-imbursement of late claims received beyond its fiscal year, ending March 31, 2016.)

Resources
We are pleased to share the following resources:
- Technologies That Aid Learning Partnerships on Real-World, Authentic Tasks (Chris Dede) (attached)
- Learning Partnerships Among Educators Enabled by Technology (Chris Dede) (attached)
“Students will be fully engaged in their learning, building the skills and developing the attributes they will need to compete for and create the jobs of tomorrow. They will benefit from a wide array of opportunities both inside and outside of school that are compelling and contribute to their success, including the opportunity to benefit from the effective and appropriate use of technology in the classroom. In a world that is constantly changing, Ontario students will be better prepared to adapt, achieve and excel, regardless of the challenges they face.” Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario, April 2014

Thank you for your ongoing leadership commitment and efforts to ensure that Ontario students receive the best publicly funded education in the world. Your continued engagement and support of this collaborative research and knowledge mobilization initiative are valued. As outlined above in the 2016 Roundtable goals, this fourth annual provincial gathering will continue the process of building a collaborative learning community of innovation practitioners and change leaders across the province. We look forward to our ongoing work together with board teams on February 9, 2016.

Original Signed By: Catherine Montreuil

Original Signed By: Janine Griffore


Management Board of Cabinet Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive
Technologies That Aid Learning Partnerships on Real-World, Authentic Tasks (Chris Dede)
Learning Partnerships Among Educators Enabled by Technology (Chris Dede)

cc: Frank Kelly, Council of Ontario Directors of Education
Nancy Matthews, ADM, Early Years Division
Richard Franz, ADM (acting), Student Achievement Division
Brian Blakely, ADM (acting), Education Labour Relations Division
Denise Dwyer, ADM, Leadership and Learning Environment Division
Bohodar Rubashewsky, ADM, Corporate Management and Services Division
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Karen Gill, Director, Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch
Denys Giguère, Director, French-language Policy and Programs Branch
Steven Reid, Director, Field Services Branch and Regional Managers
Supervisory Officers responsible for 21st Century Innovation Projects
21st Century Innovation Project Leads