Memorandum To: Directors of Education

From: George Zegarac
Deputy Minister

Date: January 4, 2016

Subject: Staffing Announcement – Assistant Deputy Minister, Leadership and Learning Environment Division

As a result of the recent competition, I am pleased to share with you that Denise Dwyer will be joining our Executive Leadership Team as the Assistant Deputy Minister, Leadership and Learning Environment Division. Denise will be starting with the Ministry of Education effective January 4, 2016.

Denise is currently the Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Training Division, at the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS), where she is responsible for a blended portfolio of policy and operations relating to public safety law and policy, adult education and training, and corporate leadership. Her role includes oversight of the Ontario Police College and the business development and coordination of training across the Ontario Fire College and Ontario Correctional Services College. Denise is leading the development of the Public Safety Learning System, a model under which learning at the three colleges in MCSCS will be enhanced by shared common courses, and supported by an integrated Learning Management System that allows for a central data base and repository for cross training, registration and enrollment and a robust e-learning platform.

In addition, she is a member of the executive team supporting the largest policing transformation in Ontario, the “Strategy for a Safer Ontario”. Focussed on the professionalization, education and training of police, Denise and her team are spearheading the modernization of the Ontario’s police training model to emphasize enhanced competencies, evidence-based police practices and introduce performance measures. As well, Denise dedicates her time as one of the Executive Leads of the Human Rights Project Charter: a phased, seven-year action plan to enhance diversity and inclusiveness in Corrections workplaces and service delivery supported through a partnership between MCSCS, the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services and the Ontario Human Rights Commission.
As a leader in a large, public sector organization, Denise brings with her a demonstrated ability to motivate and engage a team of professionals; experience in policy development and operations; strong performance in issues management, and stakeholder management, and; excellent skills in communication, negotiation and strategic business decision-making. Denise is a lifelong mentor and coach to many students and legal professionals. She describes it as the passion that led to her interest in adult education.

Denise’s career trajectory within the Ontario Public Service began in 1991, as Assistant Crown Attorney in the Ministry of the Attorney General and later expanded to conducting drug prosecutions for the Federal Department of Justice. In 2006, she became counsel for the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and three years later, was promoted to Legal Director.

Denise holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Economics from McGill University and is a graduate of the University of Windsor Law School. In addition, she has earned a master’s degree in Adult Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

I want to also take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Bruce Drewett, Demetra Saldaris and Ruth Flynn for agreeing to take on the acting responsibilities of the Assistant Deputy Minister, Leadership and Learning Environment Division, pending the result of the competitive process.

In closing, please join me in congratulating Denise on her success in the competition and in welcoming her to the ministry in her new role.

George Zegarac
Deputy Minister