MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary Treasurers of School Authorities

FROM: Elizabeth Harding
Director, Learning Environment Branch
Instruction and Leadership Development Division

DATE: July 6, 2010

SUBJECT: Bill 157 Statement of Attestation and Conformity and On-going Training

I would like to thank you for returning your signed Statement of Attestation and Conformity with regard to Bill 157 and associated policies.

As you know, Bill 157 and associated regulations and policies are part of the ministry’s ongoing efforts to make Ontario schools safer. Some of the legislative and policy changes as a result of Bill 157 impact on every employee in your board. As staff changes are expected on a year to year basis, continuous training with regards to these requirements is important. On-going training is key in successfully embedding these practices. As such, the ministry suggests that 1 hour be set aside during one of your Professional Activity days starting in the 2010/11 school year and every subsequent year in order to train school staff, where appropriate, on these safe schools changes. Particular attention should be paid to meeting the needs of new staff and casual workers in this training.

As implementation of this new legislation and policies continues, we recognize that questions may arise. We continue to invite you to submit these questions to the ministry. We are committed to sharing these questions and the ministry’s response with all boards through our ministry website so everyone will have access to the same information. Please forward your questions to ashleigh.egerton@ontario.ca

Thank you for your continued commitment to students in this province and to help each student feel safe and welcome in our publicly-funded schools.

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Elizabeth Harding