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

FROM: Ruth Flynn
Director
Inclusive Education Branch

DATE: June 1st, 2011

SUBJECT: Equity and Inclusive Education (EIE) Implementation Networks

On behalf of the Inclusive Education Branch, I would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to you and your staff for your continued work to support the effective implementation of the Equity and Inclusive Education (EIE) Strategy at the board level and in our schools.

On March 31, 2011 the Ministry announced the 2011-12 projected funding outside the Grants for Student Needs (GSN). The Ministry will continue to provide funding of $125,000 to each of the seven EIE Implementation Networks; the six regional English-language networks and the one provincial French-language network for 2011-12.

The funding is to be spent in accordance with the terms and conditions as outlined in the Transfer Payment Agreement and in accordance with the Ministry’s criteria. In keeping with government transfer payment directives, funding is to be used prudently with a focus on accountability and transparency. Travel, meal, accommodation and hospitality expenses are to demonstrate value for money and be considered necessary and economical with due regard for health and safety. Alcohol is not an eligible expense and is not to be served at events or meetings, nor can it be included as part of any individual meal, travel, accommodation or hospitality expense.

Please note that the funding cannot be used for the hiring of school board staff.

Outcomes and Deliverables

To support the effective implementation of the action items of the Strategy and to continue to build and sustain capacity within our school systems, the funding should focus on activities that will support:

- Implementation of school boards’ Equity and Inclusive Education policies, including a Religious Accommodation Guideline.
- Embedding equity and inclusive education principles in board and school improvement plans, within the context of the board’s multi year plans.
- Review of school classroom strategies and practices that are aligned with and promote school-wide equity and inclusive education policies.
- Monitoring of progress and assessment of effectiveness of policies, programs and procedures.
- Cyclical review of all aspects of the board operations using the principles of equity and inclusive education.
The EIE Implementation Networks will continue to meet, collaborate and share strategies, effective practices and build capacity within school communities by helping school boards to:

1. Collaborate and partner with other school boards to identify and eliminate systemic barriers and discriminatory biases related to student learning and, to parent and community engagement to support student achievement and well-being.
2. Share strategies, challenges, promising practices and resources on equity and inclusive education, including parent engagement, throughout the networks.
3. Share strategies for consultation with parents and diverse communities to facilitate board activities related to implementing board equity and inclusive education policies.
4. Facilitate collaborative professional development and leadership training opportunities to build and enhance capacity to support equity and inclusive education and parent engagement.

**Reporting and Accountability**

Funding will be provided by a Transfer Payment Agreement to the EIE Implementation Network Lead (or Co-lead) Board. Please note that the funding has to be spent by **March 31, 2012**. Each EIE Implementation Network will submit an interim report to the Ministry by **January 20, 2012** and a final report by **June 29, 2012** on the outcomes and deliverables achieved as outlined above.

The Ministry is inviting school boards within each network to express interest in or continue to be the EIE Implementation Network Lead or Co-lead Board. School boards are asked to contact their Regional Office Equity and Inclusive Education Lead by **June 30, 2011** to indicate interest (List attached).

Since the inception of the EIE Implementation Networks, the Lead (Co-lead) school boards have worked in collaboration with the Regional Office Equity and Inclusive Education Leads to co-ordinate the various activities of the networks and boards to assist in the effective implementation of the Strategy. As the 2010-11 school comes to an end, we are moving forward with plans for the 2011-12 school year. The Ministry remains committed to providing guidance and support to the EIE Implementation Networks to assist all school boards and their schools in the effective implementation of the Strategy.

Once again, thank you for all of your excellent work and your commitment. We look forward to working with you in the coming year as together we strive to improve student achievement and well-being, and to reduce the gap in student achievement by creating safe, equitable and inclusive learning environments.

Sincerely,

Ruth Flynn