MEMORANDUM TO:    Director of Education
FROM:         Kit Rankin            Domenica Ozarko
              Director                 Director,
              Field Services Branch    Strategic Policy and
              Ministry of Education     Planning Support Branch

DATE:      May 21, 2009

SUBJECT: Child and Youth Health and Wellness (After-School) Strategy

On April 29th, 2009 the Ministry of Education sent a letter to inform school boards about the Priority Schools initiative beginning in September 2009. As stated in the letter, a board receiving funding for the Priority Schools initiative shall provide Not-For-Profit groups with the following:

- Free use of school space outside regular school hours; and
- Preference to school space outside regular school hours.

As you may be aware, the Ministry of Health Promotion has developed the Child and Youth Health and Wellness (After-School) Strategy to address government commitments to improve child and youth health issues. In December 2008, the After-School Strategy was identified as a key initiative in the government’s Poverty Reduction Strategy.

In 2009/10, the government committed $10M for a strategy to focus on supporting after-school programming in targeted priority areas across the province where children and youth in grades 1-12 can benefit from new or enhanced after-school services focused on physical activity, healthy eating and nutrition, wellness and personal health education.

While we understand that school-related activities have priority access to school space and are not to be superseded by Priority Schools-related programming, after-school services would ideally be provided in schools first, where appropriate. Connecting service providers of the After-School Strategy with potential priority schools and other Community Use schools will maximize the impact of funding and ensure access to the greatest number of community members.
Community organization/service providers, which have been determined in consultation with key government ministries, are being approached by the Ministry of Health Promotion to submit proposals for 2009/10 funding to address needs in priority areas. Communities will be requested to contact local school boards to discuss potential opportunities before submitting a proposal to the Ministry of Health Promotion.

All proposals will be evaluated by a provincial review panel. The panel will assess all submissions against eligibility criteria. The proposal approvals will be complete by the beginning of July 2009. At that time, schools boards will be provided with a list of approved After-School service providers; however, please contact us with any questions that could arise before that time.

If you require additional information, please contact Anthony Falcone (EDU) at (416) 327-7981 or Gillian Steeve (MHP) at (416)-326-6406.

Thank you for your support of the After-School strategy in the priority areas for 2009/10.

(Originally signed by)

Kit Rankin

(Originally signed by)

Domenica Ozarko

CC: EDU Regional Offices
Outreach Coordinators