Memorandum To: Directors of Education  
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities  
Director, Provincial Schools Branch  

From: George Zegarac  
Ministry of Education  
David de Launay  
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs  

Date: May 5, 2014  

Subject: The First Nations and Treaties map of Ontario – A new treaty awareness resource

We are writing to inform you of a new resource to support treaty awareness that is being distributed to schools in early May. This resource includes two complementary elements:

- The First Nations and Treaties map of Ontario
- Information for Educators.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs created the First Nations and Treaties map for educators and students to help increase their knowledge and awareness about treaties in Ontario. The map helps to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Treaty of Fort Niagara by drawing attention to the importance and impact of treaty relationships in Ontario.

The distribution of the First Nations and Treaties map supports all Ontario students and schools in achieving excellence and ensuring equity through the opportunities it offers to increase student engagement and foster respect for the diversity in our school communities.

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1 This map is intended for educators to help them support increased knowledge and awareness about treaties in Ontario in a variety of curriculum areas. It provides a general illustration of treaty areas for information purposes. It has been developed using a number of publicly available sources. For more information, please see the disclaimer/information note on the map.
We are asking principals to consider mounting and displaying the map in their schools as one way to highlight the upcoming National Aboriginal History Month in June, along with National Aboriginal Day on June 21.

Recognizing both events would provide the students and teachers in your board with a meaningful learning opportunity. They can learn about the historic and contemporary contributions of Aboriginal peoples to the development of Canada, as well as the strength of present-day Aboriginal communities and their promise for the future. This would support all students in developing their understanding of the local, provincial, national and global communities to which they belong.

To support the use of the First Nations and Treaties map in schools, the Ministry of Education has provided a supporting document entitled Information for Educators.

This document highlights places in the Ontario curriculum where the map may be used as a resource. For example, there are opportunities for students to learn about treaties throughout the Ontario curriculum, with the most direct connections found in:

- Social Studies, Grades 1 to 6; History and Geography, Grades 7 and 8, 2013 (revised)
- Canadian and World Studies, Grades 9 and 10, 2013 (revised)
- Canadian and World Studies, Grades 11 and 12, 2005 [Note: This curriculum is currently being revised and is anticipated to be released in 2014]
- Social Sciences and Humanities, Grades 9 to 12, 2013 (revised)
- Native Studies, Grades 9 and 10, 1999; and Grades 11 and 12, 2000
  [Note: This curriculum is currently being revised and is anticipated to be released in 2014 as First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies, Grades 9 to 12].

The distribution of the First Nations and Treaties map aligns with a key component of the vision in Ontario’s First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework, which is that “all students in Ontario will have knowledge and appreciation of contemporary and traditional First Nation, Métis and Inuit traditions, cultures, and perspectives” (pg. 7). We hope that providing the First Nations and Treaties map to every elementary and secondary school in Ontario will help promote greater awareness and understanding of treaties in Ontario.

All materials that we are mailing to schools have been attached to this memo. Within a week or two, under separate cover, you will receive hardcopies of the First Nations and Treaties map, which is roughly 85 cm by 120 cm. Extra copies of the map can be ordered through Service Ontario and at ontario.ca/treaties, where PDF versions are available in English and French.
If you have any questions regarding the educational materials, please contact Murray Leaning at 416-325-2742 or murray.leaning@ontario.ca. If you have questions regarding the map, please see ontario.ca/treaties or email greg.coleman@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

George Zegarac  
Deputy Minister of Education

David de Launay  
Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

Attachments:  Information for Educators  
Image of *First Nations and Treaties* map of Ontario  
Copy of cover letter to Principals

c:  J. Griffore, Assistant Deputy Minister  
French Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division, Ministry of Education  
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