MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Mary Jean Gallagher
Chief Student Achievement Officer of Ontario
Assistant Deputy Minister
Student Achievement Division

Janine Griffore
Assistant Deputy Minister
French-Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division

DATE: May 2, 2014

SUBJECT: Volunteer Opportunities with the TORONTO 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games

The TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan American Games will take place in July and August 2015. This memo is a request to you to share information about volunteering at the Games with students, teachers and other staff.

Over 10,000 athletes and team officials from 41 nations and territories will compete in 36 Pan Am and 15 Parapan Am sports. 16 municipalities within and around the Greater Toronto Area will host the Games:

- Ajax
- Burlington
- Caledon
- Hamilton
- Innisfil
- Markham
- Milton
- Minden
- Mississauga
- Mono Township
- Oro Medonte
- Oshawa
- St. Catharines
- Toronto
- Welland
- Whitby

Games of this magnitude cannot happen without the help of volunteers. The TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Organizing Committee (TO2015) expects to recruit as many as 20,000 volunteers for both the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games.

TO2015 announced their volunteer program launch on April 7, 2014. In general, Pan Am Games volunteers will contribute 12 shifts over 18 Games-time operating days and in most cases, Parapan Am Games volunteers will contribute 6 shifts over 8 Games-time operating days. Most volunteer placements will not take place until summer 2015. Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older on January 1, 2015, with volunteers under 18 years old requiring the permission of their parent or legal guardian to participate. All
volunteers will be required to have a good command of English and organizers are also seeking volunteers who speak French, Spanish or Portuguese.

Organizers are looking for volunteers with these qualities:

- Friendly, approachable and enjoy helping people
- Reliable
- High level of communication skills
- Able to work in a team environment
- Sense of humour
- Ability to adapt to changing conditions.

Volunteering with the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games may be considered an acceptable community involvement activity for students as it meets the requirements in Policy/Program Memorandum No. 124a. The Ministry of Education has met with TO2015 organizers regarding the 40-hour community involvement graduation requirement and we are supportive of students applying to become Games-time volunteers and have committed to meeting the participation requirements for these hours. If using this experience as their community involvement graduation requirement, students should ensure this activity has been approved by their principal prior to graduation.

Please share this information with your school and school board administrators to encourage students, teachers and staff to become involved with the TORONTO 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games, as spectators and as volunteers. More information can be found on the TORONTO 2015 website at http://www.toronto2015.org/.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Mary Jean Gallagher
Assistant Deputy Minister
Student Achievement Division

Janine Griffore
Assistant Deputy Minister
French-Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division