

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister

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Memorandum To: Directors of Education

From: Bruce Rodrigues
Deputy Minister

Date: May 3, 2018

Subject: Musical Instrument Refurbishment

I am pleased to tell you that the Ministry of Education is investing \$3 million in [Music Canada](#)'s musical instrument refurbishment program, known as The Three R's Music Program, which will support schools across Ontario.

This program, which will be designed and implemented by Music Canada in both French and English, will improve the inventory of musical instruments available to Ontario's publicly funded schools. This investment will help increase access to musical instruments across the province. It will also give Ontario schools the opportunity to increase engagement in music education, and will help to connect students' learning experiences to Canada's dynamic music industry. This is an exciting opportunity for Ontario students all across the province.

This funding is part of the \$21 million investment in arts education announced in the 2018 Budget. In support of the Ontario Arts curriculum, Grades 1-12, we intend to engage with our partners this fall on how to best allocate this funding to enhance student learning in, about, and through the arts, including dance, drama, music, and visual art. Foundational to these investments will be an opportunity to create space to support cultural diversity, including respect for Indigenous peoples' culture, perspectives, and knowledge. Resources and professional development materials will be co-developed with advice and input from the ministry and the education sector.

As part of [Music Canada](#)'s program to refurbish and repair musical instruments in Ontario schools, they will:

- Encourage the public to donate their used/unused musical instruments;
- Refurbish and/or repair donated instruments;
- Maintain and make available an inventory of refurbished donated musical instruments for all 72 school boards across Ontario;

- Raise students' awareness about different aspects of Canada's music industry and provide students access to Francophone and Anglophone Canadian artists in schools;
- Prioritize outreach to at-risk, racialized and Indigenous youth across the province; and
- Engage with Indigenous partners to determine how best to meet the needs of remote and rural Indigenous communities.

The arts remain a priority for the Ministry of Education as we continue to support experiential learning for students.

I appreciate your dedication and commitment to publicly funded education in Ontario, and your support in seeing that this important information is communicated to educators, students and their families across the province.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support for Ontario students.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Rodrigues". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "B".

Bruce Rodrigues
Deputy Minister