Memorandum

To:

Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACEPO)
L'Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
Association des gestionnaires de l'éducation franco-ontarienne (AGEFO)
The Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
Conseil ontarien des directrices et directeurs de l'éducation de langue française (CODELF)
Catholic Principals’ Council of Ontario (CPCO)
Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers’ Association (OCSOA)
Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association (OCSTA)
Ontario English Catholic Teachers’ Association (OECTA)
Ontario Principals’ Council (OPC)
Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA)
Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association (OPSOA)
Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation (OSSTF)
Ontario Teachers’ Federation (OTF)

From: Bruce Rodrigues
Deputy Minister

Date: November 15, 2016

Subject: Invitation to the Well-Being Advisory Committee

Dear Colleagues,

On November 2, 2016, you were sent a letter from the Premier and the Minister of Education to thank you for your correspondence regarding Ontario’s Well-Being Strategy. Along with the letter, you were sent the well-being engagement paper Well-Being in Our Schools, Strength in our Society and some details about the upcoming regional engagement sessions taking place across the province.

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To follow up on the letter, I am writing to extend an invitation to your organization to identify one member who will sit on a Well-Being Advisory Committee that has been put together to inform the well-being work going forward. This is in addition to your ongoing partnership with the ministry through the Initiatives Committee. The co-chairs for this committee are Dr. Bruce Ferguson, Senior Consultant and the founding Director of the former Community Health Systems Resource Group at The Hospital for Sick Children and Mary Gordon, President and Founder of Roots of Empathy.

I believe that your organization will be able to provide great perspective to the ministry’s work including: understanding what well-being means and the factors that contribute to it; providing insights on the well-being strategies and indicators already in place in Ontario schools for students; the conditions that promote well-being for all students; and exploring what we will look for to determine if we have been successful in promoting and supporting student well-being.

I expect that this committee will meet approximately four times per year over the next two years. All travel expenses related to attending these meetings will be covered by the Ministry of Education. As a member of the advisory committee, any advice that you provide to the ministry will be confidential. I have attached the Terms of Reference provided to the existing members that provides some additional details as well as the biographies of existing members.

The ministry has brought together a diverse group of individuals from varying disciplines, including the arts, human capital development, health/physical well-being, school mental health, psychiatry and behavioural neuroscience, measurement and assessment, supporting newcomers and children/youth in care, and the committee also includes youth membership. Together we are embarking on a journey to enhance promoting and supporting student well-being in education. Your contributions through the committee will be instrumental as the ministry works with its partners to define student well-being and identify ways to evaluate the progress we have made in this area.
Please contact Katherine Lee, Policy/Program Analyst in the Safe Schools and Student Well-Being Branch at Katherine.Lee@ontario.ca or at 416-325-2515, by November 16, 2016, to identify who from your organization will participate on the Well-Being Advisory Committee. The next meeting is taking place in Toronto on November 25, 2016. I do hope that you will accept this invitation and help support this exciting work.

Sincerely,

Bruce Rodrigues
Deputy Minister

Enclosures:
Terms of Reference
Well-Being Advisory Committee Current Member Biographies