November 7, 2016

Dear attendees to the Partners in Dialogue event,

I am writing today to thank you in advance for attending our two-day Partners in Dialogue engagement on November 9-10, 2016.

I am pleased to see so many people with such a diverse wealth of expertise and experience will be participating in this important and exciting collaborative learning opportunity. I am also pleased to share with you a copy of our Engagement Paper, *Well-Being in Our Schools, Strength in our Society*.

This engagement paper is intended to further our progress on the goal of promoting well-being and better understand the challenges and opportunities in ensuring students' cognitive, emotional, social and physical needs are being met. We will continue to build on the discussions and work already happening to promote well-being in our schools, and improve our publicly funded education system.

As you know, promoting and supporting well-being is one of the four interconnected goals of Achieving Excellence, Ontario’s renewed vision for education: achieving excellence, ensuring equity, promoting well-being and enhancing public confidence. We are proud of this vision for education and its specific focus on well-being. As part of this shared vision, we want all students in Ontario to succeed and achieve their full potential.

In addition to our dialogue this week, over the coming months, the ministry will be engaging with its partners online and by visiting communities all across the province to discuss well-being in our schools. The evidence has shown that children and students who have strong relationships and a positive sense of self are in a better position to reach their full potential.

To support this work, the ministry is also hosting regional engagements across Ontario, and we are encouraging community members to organize their own discussions on well-being and to submit their feedback. The ministry has also created an Engagement Kit to help communities host their own discussions with local parents, students, community groups and partners.
The province is engaging with a diverse range of partners in education, health care, youth justice, social services, business, arts and culture and the non-profit sector, as well as francophone partners and communities to incorporate their unique identities, cultural backgrounds and perspectives. The ministry is also working with Indigenous partners to co-develop supports and indicators of well-being for Indigenous students that can help inform the larger well-being strategy for all students.

This engagement is critically important to ensuring that our work to promote well-being in schools is meaningful and effective. So once again, I thank you for your participation in this interactive networking and learning day, and for your dedication to and commitment to student success and well-being. I encourage you to visit our website for more information about this engagement process, at: www.ontario.ca/studentwellbeing.

You all have a role to play at the start of this journey to a better future for all of Ontario’s children and students, and I look forward to seeing you at this important event.

Sincerely,

Mitzie Hunter, MBA
Minister

Enclosure