September 25, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

May I preface my specific message today by acknowledging the work that has been done around the province in support of improving student achievement. It is making a difference and we should be proud of this difference. We know there is more to do and we are continuing to find ways to support you in this process.

We are also aware that in some instances, students require services from external health and social service agencies in order to improve their opportunities for learning that are beyond the board’s own abilities to provide. In these instances, having a local protocol to facilitate the development of partnerships with external agencies can be a great benefit.

Attached to this message are a Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) on a Protocol with External Agencies and a memorandum from me providing additional information in support of the implementation of the PPM. These have been created consistent with the Provincial Discussion Table agreement.

This PPM and memorandum will provide sufficient direction for the creation of a local board protocol that will not only recognize present health and social service professionals and para-professionals in boards but also, facilitate appropriate partnerships to help these professionals in their important work with students.

If you have any questions, please contact the ministry office in your region. A list of Regional Offices is attached.

Once again, thank you for your work in support of all students.

Sincerely,

Kevin Costante

[Attachment(s)]
cc: Judith Wright, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Youth Services
Ronald T. Sapsford, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Grant Clarke, Assistant Deputy Minister (A), Learning and Curriculum Division
Raymond Théberge, Assistant Deputy Minister, French Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division
Marshall Jarvis, General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association
Réjean Laroche, directeur générale, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens
Wendy Bolt, General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation
Gene Lewis, General Secretary, Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario
Ministry of Education Regional Office Managers