MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities and Supervisory Officers

FROM: Sandra Morson

DATE: September 29, 2008

SUBJECT: Curriculum Review – French as a Second Language
Regional Focus Group Session – Barrie, October 21, 2008

Year 6 of the Curriculum Review process began this September. As you know, the review process for each discipline includes consultation through stakeholder information sessions and focus groups.

We are currently working in partnership with the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch of the Ministry of Education to offer one-day focus group sessions in October 2008 for representatives from school boards and school authorities. The purpose of these sessions is to gather input for the review of the French as a Second Language, Grades 1 to 8 and Grades 9 to 12 curriculum policy documents from teachers, principals and board-level staff. French as a Second Language, Grades 1 to 8 and Grades 9 to 12 will be combined in one focus group session. The Barrie Regional Session will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2008.

For the French as a Second Language, Grades 1-12 Focus Group Session, boards are invited to send eight (8) representatives with experience in this subject area to the session.

- Three (3) elementary teachers - Suggested representation may include: 1 primary, 1 junior and 1 intermediate. Ideally, teachers who teach French as a Second Language (representing Core French, Extended French and French Immersion) will be included in this group.
- Three (3) secondary classroom teachers. Ideally, teachers currently teaching the different French as a Second Language Courses (Core/ Extended/Immersion) - Grades 9-12 will be included in this group.
Suggested representation for secondary may include:
e.g. If only Core French offered - 1 Grade 9 Academic/Applied, 1 Grade 10 Academic/Applied, 1 Grade 11 or 12 University prep/Open
e.g. If 2-3 FSL programs offered - 1 Core, 1 Extended and 1 Immersion
• Two (2) board representatives – e.g. Consultant/Coordinator/Principal with expertise in French as a Second Language at the elementary and secondary level.

School authorities are invited to send one (1) representative to the focus group session.

Please list the names of participants on the attached registration chart and return to Len Godin, by e-mail to len.godin@ontario.ca or fax it to (705) 725-7635 or 1-800-471-2584, by Friday, October 10, 2008.

Please note that participants are to be prepared to discuss the strengths of the current curriculum policy documents, to identify potential areas for improvement and to comment on how a specific change may impact on the curriculum. Board representatives may wish to consult with their colleagues prior to the session by asking the following questions:

1. What are the strengths of the curriculum? Why?

2. Are there specific areas that need improvement? If so, what are they?

3. What impact, if any, would a specific proposed change have on the curriculum? For example, what needs to be considered within the grade? Within the discipline? Across other disciplines?

Detailed information regarding the specific date, times and location of the French as a Second Language, Grades 1-8 and Grades 9-12 Focus Group Session is included below. The Focus Group registration chart and the Expense Claim template are attached.

| Focus Group Session for French as a Second Language |
| Grades 1-12 |
| Tuesday, October 21, 2008 |
| 8:30 a.m. (Registration and continental breakfast) |
| 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. |
| Lions Gate Banquet Centre |
| 386 Blake Street |
| Barrie ON L4M 1L3 |
| (705) 735-2727 or (705) 726-8967 |

A map to the Lions Gate Banquet Centre is attached.
Expense Claim Information

The ministry will reimburse participants for the cost of:

- Travel (at the rate of $.40 per kilometre)
- Hotel accommodation if necessary (for participants traveling 200 kilometres or more return trip)
- For those requiring accommodation, one supper meal for the night of accommodation ($20.00/meal). Breakfast and lunch will be provided during the training for all participants.
- Supply teacher coverage, where required to cover classroom teachers, is at the board’s per diem rate.

Participants requiring over night accommodation are to book and pay for their own accommodations/meals and then submit all bills to their own board for reimbursement. Each board must then submit a signed, original board invoice and itemized Expense Claim (template attached) along with copies of all receipts. Please forward these forms to Len Godin, Education Officer, in the Barrie Regional Office as soon as possible or by Friday, November 28, 2008.

If you require further information about the session, please contact Len Godin at 705-725-7499 or 1-866-699-3969.

We value the input from school boards and school authorities and thank you for your continued support.

Sandra Morson
Regional Manager (A)

Attachments