November 26, 2004

Dear ICQ Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a teacher in Ontario. Supporting achievement in education is a top priority for the government. Ontario needs highly trained and motivated teachers to deliver its commitment to improving student achievement so that all our students can attain excellence.

As you may know, the Ontario Teacher Qualifying Test (OTQT) was introduced in 2002 as one of the requirements for a Certificate of Qualification and Registration from the Ontario College of Teachers.

We are pleased to confirm that the provincial government is exploring an induction program for first-year teachers. In addition, the government intends to replace the OTQT with an alternative assessment that all teachers new to Ontario would be required to complete, following their first year of teaching.

The government is moving forward with the new approach to teacher certification; accordingly, you will not be required to write the OTQT in the spring of 2005. Please note that subject to regulatory amendments, you will be required to participate in an alternative assessment when it is established. This change requires further consultation with the education sector this fall. We understand that it is important for you to have the information and time that you need to adjust to any changes.

If you have any questions, please contact the Ministry of Education by telephone at 1-800-387-5514 (toll-free in Ontario) or by e-mail at <info@edu.gov.on.ca>. If you would like to receive the most up-to-date information on developments in education, please join OPEN, Ontario’s e-mail network, at the Ministry’s web site <www.edu.gov.on.ca>. Your feedback on this, or any other education initiative, is welcome.

Sincerely,

Paul Anthony, Director
Teaching Policy and Standards Branch