

Ministry of Education

Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Telephone (416) 325-2600
Facsimile (416) 325-2608

Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Téléphone (416) 325-2600
Télécopieur (416) 325-2608



September 16, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing as a follow-up to the input you provided to my Parliamentary Assistant Liz Sandals and my staff regarding Bill 177 and the consultation process for the Provincial Interest Regulation. Specifically, I am confirming that if Bill 177 passes, we will distribute a draft of the Provincial Interest Regulation to the trustee associations and other members of the Partnership Table for further consideration and input.

I acknowledge that there may be some confusion between Bill 177 and the Provincial Interest Regulation. The legislative authority for the Provincial Interest Regulation stems from Bill 78 which passed in 2006. Our government has chosen to await passage of Bill 177 before acting upon the Provincial Interest Regulation. The clarity that Bill 177 will bring to public education regarding the roles of school boards, trustees and directors will inform the content of the Regulation. And, as I have stated, the Regulation will reflect a constructive and supportive approach that honours the complexity within and among boards. Only in the most extreme cases would this Regulation result in a board being put under administration.

I know that the vast majority of boards are doing well. They are governing effectively and are demonstrating improvement on a number of measures including student achievement. Both the Bill and the discussion paper that was circulated in June regarding the Provincial Interest Regulation rightly reflect a very complex picture of school boards. In terms of measuring their success, we are listening to our education partners and the public and have repeatedly committed ourselves to a composite picture of an effective school board. This was what the Governance Review Committee heard and reported on this past spring.

.../2

In order to ensure that we not only get the Bill right – but the Regulation as well – we are proceeding with consideration of the Bill. The consultation over this past summer has highlighted a number of important points that are being considered carefully by the ministry. If your organization has any further suggestions on either the Bill or the Regulation they would be welcomed by the members of my staff and the ministry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Wynne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathleen" being more prominent than the last name "Wynne".

Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Education