

**Ministry of Education**

Minister

Mowat Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

Édifice Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



June 29, 2017

Dear colleagues:

As the 2016-17 school year winds down, I want to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your commitment and hard work throughout the year for Ontario's students. The graduation rate is now 86.5% and I'd like to thank and congratulate everyone in our education sector for your contributions to education in Ontario.

As you well know, this year we celebrate two significant milestones: both Canada's and Ontario's 150th anniversaries since Confederation. It is important, therefore, that we take the time to recognize the tremendous contributions of our education sector to the growth and prosperity of our province, and to look ahead to the challenges and opportunities of the next 150 years. I am deeply proud of what we have accomplished together and confident in our future.

Our accomplishments are about bringing to life Ontario's renewed vision for education and its key priorities: achieving excellence, ensuring equity, promoting well-being and enhancing public confidence in our publicly funded education system.

Over the past year, I have visited over 65 schools and seen first-hand the work of dedicated staff at all levels who provide exceptional programs to students in schools in every region of this province. No factor is more important to our success than the contributions of trustees, directors of education, school board leaders, Indigenous partners, educators and all staff. Your deep knowledge, understanding, skills and experience make a difference in the lives of students across the province. I applaud your relentless pursuit of excellence and equity for all.

All of these successes are also the result of strong partnerships and effective collaboration between and among staff members of the ministry, school boards, professional associations, unions, federations and community partners. We continue to support Collaborative Professionalism, transforming how we work together in schools and boards across the province to support the needs of Ontario's learners. We are forging a path forward for better outcomes for student achievement and student and staff wellbeing.

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As we look forward to the summer break, I want to thank you for your ongoing leadership and commitment, and for your dedication to Ontario's students and families during this past year.

I wish you a happy Canada day!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH', written in a cursive style.

Mitzie Hunter, MBA  
Minister