

CODE

Council of Ontario Directors of Education

Representing:
Association des gestionnaires de l' éducation franco-ontarienne AGÉFO)
Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association (OCSOA)
Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association (OPSOA)

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities
Director, Provincial Schools Branch

FROM: Frank Kelly
Executive Director

DATE: February 15, 2013

RE: CODE Support for the Ministry of Education Student Injury Prevention Initiative

I am writing in regards to the Ministry of Education Student Injury Prevention Initiative Funding Memorandum dated January 30, 2013 in which Deputy Minister Zegarac indicates that the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) has been engaged to assist the Ministry with coordination of this initiative.

CODE is currently undertaking the organization of a Health and Safety Team which will have responsibility for: identifying a common set of provincial health and safety promising practices; supporting the training of school board staff; and inspecting technological education facilities and science as time permits. CODE will also liaise with boards regarding the optimal use of expenditures for this initiative and the completion of board financial reports.

Accordingly, I am pleased to inform you that Robert Emptage of Emptage and Associates Inc. will be coordinating the CODE Health and Safety Team and drawing upon experts in the areas of chemical handling and storage policy procedures, health and safety standards and legislation, environmental standards and legislation, equipment safety and guarding, and education administrative policy and procedures.

The CODE Health and Safety Team and its advisory group include leaders in school health and safety in Ontario and will consult with representatives from boards and organizations such as subject associations, independent health and safety experts, the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange and the School Boards' Cooperative Inc. Connecting with the CODE Health and Safety Team, Ministry of Labour regional managers will share provincial strategies for enhancing safety in science labs and technological education shops.

Further to the CODE Health and Safety Team's work in identifying promising health and safety practices recognized experts/associations in the field of school health and safety will be available to offer advice and inspect facilities at the request of individual boards. Funding for both expert advice and inspections of technological education shops and science labs is available within each board's allocation through the Student Injury Prevention Initiative.

The CODE Health and Safety Team will also be producing three professional development modules for boards to utilize with staff having responsibilities for ensuring that Ontario schools and classrooms are safe, healthy and well-maintained. Topics for the professional development modules will be identified by the CODE Health and Safety Team in consultation with board representatives. In addition Directors of Education for thirteen boards representative of education in Ontario will be asked to provide an opportunity for Mr. Emptage and members of the CODE Health and Safety Team to visit selected technological education shops and science labs for board staff to offer input and advice to the CODE Health and Safety Team as it works on identifying promising practices to ensure injury prevention.

In a future Memorandum, names of the members and associations of the CODE Health and Safety Team will be circulated to boards. For further information and enquiries, please telephone or email the CODE office.