

OASPHE



The Ontario Association for the Support of Physical
and Health Education

Dear Minister Broten;

All children and youth need physical and health literacy if they are to be healthy, active, and contributing citizens in the 21st century.

To ensure this becomes a reality, teachers must have an up to date curriculum that comprehensively addresses the needs of their students.

As a result, on behalf of all Health and Physical Education teachers in the province of Ontario, we are requesting an immediate release of the newly revised secondary Health and Physical Education curriculum and the remainder of the 2010 revised elementary Health and Physical Education curriculum.

While our colleagues in other subject disciplines have newly revised curriculums to address the learning needs of their students, Health and Physical educators continue to teach a curriculum that is over 13 years old and no longer provides students with the critical knowledge and skills needed to be healthy.

On a daily basis, our children and youth deal with many health issues. In our classes each day we see our students struggle with mental health, bullying, unhealthy relationships, and unhealthy and abusive behaviours such as drugs, alcohol, and gambling. All of these impede their ability to feel safe, feel they belong, and feel they can learn.

In the absence of an Ontario curriculum, school boards have resorted to using other provinces mental health resources to address the urgent need of our own students. Where once Ontario was a leader in Health and Physical Education curriculum, we now continue to fall behind other provinces without our own relevant and up to date curriculum.

Recently, Premier McGuinty stated that in the near future your government will be introducing “higher order skills” that support the “construction of knowledge” and “fosters creativity, innovation and collaboration.” Premier McGuinty stated, “I believe there’s a professional commitment to finding ways to improve education in Ontario. We are all there and we all want to be part of that.”

Ontario’s Health and Physical Educators want to be a part of that vision. We want to be on the leading edge of improving education and doing our part; however, we must have a world class, innovative curriculum in order to do that.” The revised Health and Physical Education curriculum, waiting to be released will provide us with the tools to be part of this vision.

Premier McGuinty himself stated, “That calls for some changes to our curriculum, it calls for a new way to educate our teachers”. Health and Physical Educators across Ontario agree and we are calling on our government to:

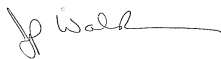
- (1) provide us with the revised Health and Physical Education curriculum immediately;
- (2) provide Boards with the newly revised course descriptions and course codes now in order to prepare for course selections for the 2013 school year;
- (3) provide funding to support Premier McGuinty’s vision of a “new way to educate our teachers” to assist us in preparing for full implementation of the revised secondary Health and Physical Education curriculum for the 2013 school year.

We are dedicated and committed to helping provide our students with the information they need to be informed, develop decision making skills and build strong interpersonal skills to make healthy choices, build resiliency, and continue to invest in their own future.

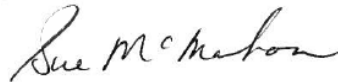
We are unable to make that a reality without a contemporary curriculum.

Your immediate attention to this matter is essential.

Sincerely,



Joanne Walsh
OASPHE, Co-President



Sue McMahon
OASPHE, Co-President