

**OASPHE**



The Educator Voice for HPE

The Ontario Association for the Support of Physical  
and Health Educators

November 4, 2013

Dear Premier Wynne,

OASPHE represents the voice of elementary and secondary Health and Physical Educators throughout the province of Ontario. Working very closely with Ophea, our sister organization, our mission is to advocate for the development and delivery of quality curriculum in Health and Physical Education to provide Ontario's students with the knowledge and skills needed to live healthy active lives and be productive, caring, contributing citizens in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Our membership is well aware of the respect and support our subject discipline received during your tenure as Minister of Education. We now seek your further support as you look to evolve Ontario's Education system from "Great to Excellent" by focusing on improving both the health and learning outcomes for Ontario's children and youth.

On a daily basis, our children and youth deal with many issues related to their mental health. As they seek to make sense of their world and their place in it, they are confronted with cyber bullying, unhealthy relationships, substance use and abusive and related behaviours, depression, anxiety and isolation. These issues impede their sense of safety, their sense of belonging and their ability to learn.

Ontario's Health and Physical Educators want to do their part to "contribute to the next stage of improving Ontario's education system and providing the best possible outcomes for all of our learners" The revised Health and Physical Education curriculum supports students in building their health and physical literacy and essential living skills: relationship and social skills; leadership; resolving conflicts; setting goals; making decisions, and adapting, managing and coping with change. All of these fundamental skills are foundational to their health and well being and predispose their ability to learn and grow.

The revised Health and Physical Education curriculum, waiting to be released, will provide us with the tools to do our part in providing a 21<sup>st</sup> century education to Ontario's children and youth and effectively address the mandated educational polices of your government.

We are once again appealing to your government to immediately fulfill your promise for additional consultations and to then finalize and release both the elementary and secondary Health and Physical Education revised curriculum in its entirety for the 2014-15 school year.

Our organization looks forward to your response to the teachers of Ontario.

Sincerely,

Joanne Walsh  
OASPHE, Co-President

Lara Paterson  
OASPHE, Co-President

cc. The Honourable Liz Sandals