

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister

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Ministère de l'Éducation

Sous-ministre

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Memorandum To: Directors of Education
Members of the Partnership Table

From: Bruce Rodrigues
Deputy Minister

Date: November 23, 2016

Subject: Invitation to the Ontario Anti-Racism Directorate Public Meetings

Dear Colleagues/ Directors:

The Ontario Anti-Racism Directorate is holding public community meetings across Ontario to hear from Ontarians on how to address systemic racism.

Our publicly-funded education system is founded on the principle that everyone – regardless of background or personal circumstances – must feel engaged and included.

We have accomplished much through our Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy that helps the education community identify and remove discriminatory biases and systemic barriers to support student achievement and well-being.

However, we also know that racism, religious intolerance, homophobia and gender-based violence are still evident in our communities and schools. In recent years, there has been a documented increase in reported incidents of anti-Black racism, antisemitism, and Islamophobia.

As educators and equity stakeholders, your input is critical in assisting the Anti-Racism Directorate to understand and address these issues and how they affect our students and our school communities. Topics that have been raised at the Directorate's previous anti-racism meetings include racial profiling (Black and Muslim/Middle Eastern); anti-Black racism; Islamophobia; and racism against the Indigenous community.

Please see the event listings below for details of the meeting in your area and please pass this information on to board and community stakeholders in your region. You can also visit www.ontario.ca/antiracism for more information.

- London (Friday November 25, 2016)
- Thunder Bay (Saturday, November 26, 2016)
- Windsor (Monday November 28, 2016)
- Ottawa (Saturday December 3, 2016)

Thank you for your *support and* assistance in making sure this information is communicated in your region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Rodrigues". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a long, sweeping underline.

Bruce Rodrigues
Deputy Minister