

**Meeting Summary**  
**Meeting of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education**  
**February 4 & 5, 2015**

The Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) held its most recent meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> in Toronto. Below are highlights of the meeting:

**February 4, 2015**

- Joe Trovato, Chair of Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) welcomed members to Council and reminded them of the *Conflict of Interest* rules and the requirement to declare any potential conflict at each meeting.
- Barry Finlay, Director of the Special Education Policy and Programs Branch (SEPPB) provided an update on the following items:
  - Bill 8, *the Public Sector and MPP Accountability and Transparency Act*, 2014 was passed allowing the Office of the Ontario Ombudsman to investigate complaints about municipalities, universities and school boards. This new law will come into effect September 2015. All appeal processes have to be followed by any complainant before the Ombudsman can investigate.
  - The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) conference has been approved and is scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.
  - Barry provided an update on current special education initiatives and focused on the latest goal promoting well-being.
  - The Minister recently approved the new vision for Care, Treatment, Custody and Correctional (CTCC) Programs:
    - As an integrated part of Ontario's education system, CTCC programs provide critical support to meet the needs of students unable to attend regular schools and facilitate specific pathways to ensure future educational success.
    - SEPPB will continue to transform CTCC programs so that the programs continue to meet the current needs of students.
    - There is no "one size fits all" program so we're differentiating between Care and Treatment programs and Youth Justice programs. To respond to growing service pressures in the areas of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), the Francophone communities and rural and remote areas, this year there is up to \$2.5M for new "Enhanced Education Treatment (EET) Programs". To address system changes in youth justice services, we will be able to fund up to \$2M for new and existing youth justice programs, "Community Based Youth Justice programs".
    - It is important to know who the students are in CTCC programs and what their needs are, so we're creating a separate CTCC student register that will help us to develop a student profile, increase ownership of students in these programs and streamline program administration.
    - It is also important to collect student achievement data so we're starting our work on this to evaluate and measure student achievement in CTCC programs.
    - We're continuing to collaborate with boards and work alongside other ministries as the Mental Health strategy evolves and as the Special Needs strategy rolls out to ensure alignment of CTCC programs within these broader systems changes.

- Mental Health Strategy – MCYS is currently reviewing how they deliver services. EDU anticipates that a number of these programs may not continue to provide mental health services and will align based on the adjustments provided by MCYS.
- The Minister of Education, Honourable Liz Sandals welcomed two new members, Denise Maisonneuve representing the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Dr. Sue Ball representing Psychologists.
- Minister Sandals spoke briefly about special education in Ontario including the increase in the special education grant. Despite a period of fiscal restraint, the special education grant is projected to increase to approximately \$2.27 B in 2014-15. This is an increase of \$1.09 B or over 67% since 2003.
- Education initiatives that were discussed are as follows:
  - The transformation of the Care, Treatment, Custody and Correctional (CTCC) programs;
  - Mental Health and Addictions Strategy;
  - Working groups that are reviewing current definitions of developmental disability, mild intellectual disability, behavior and giftedness; and
  - Collaboration among ministries.
- Minister Sandals also reviewed the four goals for education which include:
  - Achieving excellence;
  - Ensuring equity;
  - Promoting well-being; and
  - Enhancing public confidence
- Minister Sandals recently appointed four advisors who include Mr. Michael Fullan, Andy Hargreaves, Dr. Carol Campbell and Dr. Jean Clinton.
- Before leaving, Minister Sandals presented David Mason and Robert Savage with a Certificate of Appreciation for their work over the past six years.
- Staff from SEPPB and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) provided MACSE members with an update on *Open Minds, Healthy Minds* – Transforming Mental Health and Addiction Services in Ontario.
- Staff from MCYS provided an update on *Moving on Mental Health*, the transformation on mental health agencies for children and youth.
- Dr. Kathy Short and staff from SEPPB provided MACSE members with an update on the Mental Health and Addictions Strategy with a focus on the School Mental Health Assist Strategy.

### **February 5, 2015**

- MACSE members heard presentations on a variety of initiatives underway within MCYS, Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (TCU) and the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS). A written update from each ministry is now part of the Special Education Update.
- All the community collaboration reports were shared with ministry staff and council

members.

- Staff from the Field Services Branch provided an overview of the Draft French as a Second Language for Students with Special Education Needs Guide.
- MACSE members reviewed their focus areas for 2014-15. The two working groups will focus on the following:
  - Full Day Kindergarten and Early Intervention
  - Special Education: Exceptionalities, Guidelines, and Interventions.
- Once finalized, the MACSE summary will be posted on the MACSE repository and will be available to members. Minutes from previous meetings, as well as MACSE's Annual Reports can be reviewed at [www.macse-on.ca](http://www.macse-on.ca).
- MACSE's next meeting is scheduled for June 10 and 11, 2015.
- Members are reminded that all meeting materials from the February 2015 meeting are confidential unless otherwise stated.