



LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR

September 2018

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) SEAC Circular is published 5 times a year, in September, November, February, April and June.

The following are some topics that your SEAC should be looking at. Action items and/or recommendations for effective practices will be underlined.

Feel free to share any of this information or the attachments with other SEAC members. As always, when you are planning to introduce a motion for the consideration of SEAC, it is particularly important that you share all related background items with your fellow SEAC reps.

As we start the new school year, we welcome a new **Minister of Education**, Lisa Thompson, and a new (Acting) **Director of the Special Education/Success for All Branch**, Claudine Munroe.

The topics covered by this SEAC Circular:

1. Planning for the school year
2. Municipal and Trustee elections
3. Education consultations
4. OHRC *Policy on Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities*
5. LD Awareness month

List of Supplementary Materials:

1. PAAC on SEAC Annual Calendar
2. LDAO Awareness month posters

Note: You can access the SEAC Circular and supplementary materials at www.ldao.ca/about/public-policy-advocacy/seac-circulars/.

You can access Ministry memos by date at:
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/>

1. Planning for the school year

The attached **PAAC on SEAC Annual Calendar** can be used to help plan SEAC activities over the coming school year. It is essentially the same as the draft included with the June SEAC Circular, as there have not been any new initiatives announced by the Ministry at this point.

The *PAAC on SEAC Effective Practices Handbook* (2016) outlines effective practices to help SEACs develop an annual plan (see: **Section 3 SEAC Roles & Responsibilities**, <http://www.paac-seac.ca/home/paac-on-seac-effective-practices-handbook-for-seac-members/section-3-seac-roles-and-responsibilities/3-1-annual-planning/>)

The [PAAC on SEAC Annual Calendar for SEAC 2018-19](#) is also posted on the PAAC on SEAC website (www.paac-seac.ca) along with the [PAAC on SEAC Annual Report 2017-18](#)

2. Municipal and Trustee elections

On October 22, 2018 there will be elections for municipal governments and school board trustees for a new four year term.

When school boards elect new trustees, the membership on SEACs changes as well. In some school boards sitting members, excepting trustee members, may have their terms carried over, but other school boards may require new nominations from parent associations for the new term. Parent association SEAC members and alternates should check their school board's procedures.

3. Ministry of Education consultations

On August 22, 2018 the Office of the Premier announced that the government would be holding province-wide public consultations on education with parents, educators and interested individuals from across the province, to start in September 2018. See: [Consultation into Education Reform](#). Parents are to be asked what elements they want to see included in a *Parents' Bill of Rights*, as part of the province-wide consultation.

The announcement includes a list of topics, but no specific questions, and a list of consultation methods, e.g. an online survey and telephone town halls. However, no links or consultation specifics have been released to date. SEACs can ask staff to notify members once consultation details are released.

4. OHRC Policy on Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities

Following a consultation to which LDAO and PAAC on SEAC submitted responses, the Ontario Human Rights Commission released a revised [Policy on accessible education for students with disabilities](#) on September 10, 2018, This policy document replaces [Guidelines on accessible education](#) (2004).

According to the announcement, the policy:

- recognizes that education is vitally important to a person's social, academic and economic development
- reflects a broad definition of disability
- provides students and families with up-to-date information about their human rights and responsibilities
- offers practical guidance to education providers to meet their legal duty to accommodate
- reminds schools of their obligation to maintain accessible, inclusive, discrimination and harassment-free spaces.

SEACs should ask to have a presentation concerning the implications of the new policy document on the special education procedures and practices in their school board.

5. LD Awareness month

October is Learning Disabilities awareness month. LDAO SEAC members are asked to share the attached posters.

Questions? Email Diane Wagner at dianew@LDAO.ca or call (416) 929-4311 Ex. 22 (Mon.)