

Minister's Advisory Council On Special Education

Annual Report

For the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2022

Ministry of Education

Minister's Advisory Council
on Special Education
315 Front Street West, 12F
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Ministère de l'Éducation

Conseil consultatif ministériel de
l'éducation de l'enfance en difficulté
315, rue Front Ouest, 12 étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 0B8

April 30, 2022

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Lecce,

Please accept the attached Annual Report on the activities of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (the Council) for the fiscal year 2021-2022.

During our three meetings this year, the Council participated in discussions and offered advice related to several areas that affect students with special education needs. We also welcomed the opportunity to speak with you directly at each of our meetings, particularly as it related to the challenges the education sector has experienced in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. We also appreciate that during your 34 months as Minister you have made 24 appointments or re-appointments to the Council. We note, however, that there are now 7 vacancies among the 20 voting members of MACSE and we urge you to fill them, and future vacancies, as quickly as possible.

On behalf of the Council, I am also pleased to acknowledge the outstanding contribution to MACSE's work by Lynn Ziraldo over a period of more than 25 years, first as the representative of the Learning Disability constituency, then for a decade as chair, and most recently since 2008 as Advisor. She gave generously of her time and expertise and the children of Ontario are better for it.

We look forward to continuing our work with you and ministry staff to support the special education needs of students in Ontario.

Yours sincerely,



Peggy Blair
Chair

c: Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education
Clayton La Touche, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education

Mandate and Structure of the Council

The Council advises the Minister of Education on any matter related to the establishment and provision of special education programs and services for exceptional students, including the identification and provision of early intervention programs for students with special education needs.

The Advisory Committee on Special Education was established in 1974 and has been renewed continually from that date. Its name was later changed to the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE). The Council:

- responds to proposals or positions of the Ministry of Education or other ministries, as submitted to the council, from time to time;
- identifies concerns in the delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional pupils and provides information, advice and recommendations for ministry consideration; and
- meets up to three times a year for a maximum of 4½ days per year.

MACSE's membership includes the following representation:

- one seat for each of nine exceptionalities;
- one seat for each of nine educator and professional categories;
- one seat for students/youth;
- one seat for Indigenous communities;
- one non-voting seat for the Ministry of Colleges and Universities;
- one non-voting seat for the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services;
- one non-voting seat for the Ministry of Health; and
- two representatives each for the Francophone and Roman Catholic communities, appointed from among the members above.

Representatives of a constituency on the Council are normally appointed for an initial term of up to three years and may be re-appointed for combined service of up to six years. When directed by the Minister's office, the ministry will issue a call for applications to organizations with an interest in special education in the areas related to existing and/or upcoming vacancies. Individuals who wish to be considered are required to apply through the Public Appointment Secretariat (PAS), which then provides the application profiles to the ministry. The applications are then reviewed, and qualified candidates submitted for the Minister's decision.

Changes to MACSE Membership

The following new members joined the Council:

- Anne Kawamura (Medical Practitioners) on August 13, 2021
- Domenic Gentilini (Developmental Disability) on March 30, 2022

The following members retired/resigned from the Council:

- Robert Saltstone (Psychologists) on May 5, 2021
- Linda Zaretsky (Autism) on January 19, 2022
- Rose Cantisano (Trustees) on February 18, 2022

The membership of MACSE as of March 31, 2022, is provided in Appendix I.

Activities in 2021-2022

MACSE's mandate is to advise the Minister of Education on matters related to the establishment and provision of special education programs and services for students with special education needs. In 2021-2022, the Council participated in discussions and offered advice related to several areas that affect students with special education needs:

- Assessment Schedule, Reporting Plan, and Student Perceptions in Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Assessments
- Review of *Caring and Safe Schools* (2010)
- De-streaming
- Equity and Human Rights in Special Education: Reflective Practice Guide for Educators
- K-12 Education Standards Development Committee
- Learning Modules for Educators: Students with Disabilities
- Learning Recovery and Renewal
- Modernizing Education Curriculum – Graduation Requirements, Modernized Learning Opportunities, Course Types and Pathways, and the Curriculum Review Cycle
- Role of the Ontario College of Teachers and Special Education-focused Additional Qualification Courses
- Review of *Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 81 – Provision of health support services in school settings*
- Protocols to Combat Sex Trafficking
- Provincial and Demonstration Schools
- Rise to Resilience: School Mental Health-Ontario's Action Plan for 2021-22

- School-based Rehabilitation Services
- Sonderly™ – Geneva Centre for Autism’s online educational and training platform for Autism and Mental Health resources
- Special Education in Ontario – A Guide for Students and Caregivers
- Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities with Reading

Members of the Council also engage their constituencies and bring information forward about successes, challenges, effective practices, and suggestions to the Council through the standing agenda item on Community Collaboration. The information brought forward by MACSE members informs the work of the ministry.

MACSE’s advice also informed ministry policy and operational work, including supporting students with special education needs during the pandemic. The result of this work included documents such as the *Guide for Remote Learning – a resource designed for educators, students and parents*.

MACSE also provided comments that informed ministry consideration of curriculum reform, review of graduation requirements, support for early intervention to support math learning for students in Grades 4-6, enhanced data collection to provide clearer understanding of who Ontario’s students are, and student and school mental health.

Priorities for 2022-2023

In 2022-2023, the Council will continue to advise the Minister on priorities.

MACSE will also respond to ad-hoc requests for comments and advice from the Ministry of Education, as well as other ministries and agencies of the government. We will continue to work with ministry staff to ensure that advice is provided in a timely fashion to support the ongoing policy and operational work of the government.

Council members will also continue to undertake outreach to their constituencies to gather information about effective practices, challenges, opportunities, and suggestions in advance of each Council meeting.

Expenditure in 2021-2022

Members of MACSE serve as unpaid volunteers. Meetings have been held virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic, limiting costs for the period to translation and accessibility compliance of documents. Total expenditure in 2021-2022 was \$6,819.29.

Appendix I

Members of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education March 31, 2022

Sectors Represented	Name	Term Expiry
Chair	Peggy Blair	March 31, 2023
Immediate Past Chair	Joe Trovato	March 31, 2023
Exceptionalities		
Autism	Vacant	
Behavioural	Maxine Share	March 31, 2022
Blind and Low Vision	Kerrie St. Jean	November 18, 2022
Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Vacant	
Developmental Disability	Domenic Gentilini	March 29, 2025
Giftedness	Stacey Manzerolle	November 18, 2022
Learning Disability	Vacant	
Multiple Exceptionalities	Michael Jacques	November 18, 2022
Physical Disability	Vacant	
Educator Groups		
Educational Assistants	Patricia Sky	March 31, 2022 ¹
Principals	Gary Pieters	March 31, 2023
Teachers	Katheryne Hoffschmidt	March 31, 2022 ¹
Supervisory Officers	Peggy Blair	November 18, 2022
Trustees	Vacant	
Support Professionals		
Medical	Anne Kawamura	August 16, 2024
Psychologists	Vacant	
Social Workers	Lorie Laroche	March 31, 2022 ¹
Speech and Language Pathologists	Leah Brighton	March 31, 2022 ¹
Other		
Indigenous Communities	Judy Carter	March 31, 2022 ¹
Students/Youth	Ben Smith	February 17, 2023

¹ Subsequent to the fiscal year covered by this Annual Report, five members whose terms expired on March 31, 2022, were re-appointed. With those five re-appointments, there were seven vacancies (Autism, Behaviour, Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing, Learning Disability, Physical Disability, Trustees, Psychologists).