

Meeting Highlights
Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)
June 7, 2017

- Joe Trovato, chair, welcomed members and advised that Marion Macdonald, Stacey Manzerolle, John Wilhelm and Christine Hughes had sent regrets for the meeting. He reminded members of the conflict of interest rules and the requirement to declare any potential conflict at each meeting.
- Louise Sirisko, Director of the Special Education / Success for All Branch (SESAB), referred Council to the *Special Education Update Addendum (June 2017)* that has been designed as an update to the *Special Education Update (February 2017)*. Both will be posted on the Ministry's web site.
 - o SEAC conference participants found the gathering very helpful and suggested another province-wide conference be organized in 2019 so as to engage the newly appointed SEACs following the 2018 school board elections. MACSE unanimously endorsed a call for a ministry-sponsored SEAC conference in the spring of 2019.
- Staff from SESAB provided an update on the ministry's organizational realignment that took effect on May 15. MACSE welcomed the movement of the Curriculum Assessment & Student Success Policy Branch to the Student Achievement Division as supporting greater alignment.
- Staff from SESAB provided an overview of the process to develop an accessibility standard for education under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA). A Standards Development Committee struck to make recommendations to the government will address many dimensions of accessibility, including formats of learning materials and other dimensions of the learning experience. Stakeholders are being consulted through an on-line survey and members were encouraged to bring the survey to the attention of their communities.
- Updates were received from representatives of other ministries (and are included in the Special Education Update):
 - o Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD)
 - o Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS)
 - o Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), and
 - o Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS)
- Martyn Beckett, Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Support and Field Services Division, provided comments on the Provincial Initiatives Committee, the recent LD pilot symposium in London, Ontario, and the on-line survey supporting the development of an accessibility standard for education. He noted that the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario is accepting applications from individuals serving on the Standards Development Committee.
- Bruce Rodrigues, Deputy Minister, commented on the ministry's recent organizational realignment, the government's child care announcement made the previous day, and the establishment of a temporary Equity Secretariat in the ministry to lead the equity agenda for a two year period.

- Staff from SESAB provided an update on special education funding, including details from the Grants for Student Needs announcement in the spring and more recent announcements such as the Northern Supports Initiative.
- The Ontario Human Rights Commission is preparing to revise its Guidelines for Accessible Education, which were last amended in 2009. Council agreed to make this the focus of its next community collaboration engagement so as to inform a discussion at MACSE's meeting in October.
- Community collaboration reports were shared with ministry staff and Council members.
- Members were reminded that all meeting materials are confidential unless otherwise stated.
- MACSE's next meeting is scheduled for October 4 & 5, 2017.