

July 2011

Ministry of Education

Consultation Policy on Governance of French-Language Education





French-Language Education in Ontario

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The Government of Ontario is strongly committed to French-language education. Publicly funded public and Catholic French-language school boards have existed in Ontario since January 1, 1989. As of January 1, 1998, the *Education Act*¹ was amended to permit the creation of 12 publicly funded public and Catholic French-language district school boards, which significantly extended the territorial jurisdiction of French-language school boards across the province. French-language rights holders under s. 23(1) and (2) of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*,² who are otherwise qualified under the *Education Act*, may choose to send their children for French-language education to school boards governed by elected French-language trustees and in which the official language of instruction is French.

Over time, the Ministry of Education and its French-language education partners have engaged in consultation activities on a variety of matters regarding the development and support of French-language education in Ontario, in matters of curriculum and its application, of strategies for improving student achievement, of “Aménagement linguistique” and of early childhood education.

Biennial meetings are also held between the Ministry of Education and the EDU-TCU Permanent Task Force on French-Language Continued Learning. The mandate of the Permanent Working Group is to study issues relating to education in French, to conduct a high-level dialogue, mobilize commitment and ingenuity of the French-speaking partners and propose solutions to specific challenges to education in French from early childhood to postsecondary education, including training needs and employability.

The Ministry of Education recognizes and acknowledges the specific importance of consulting with its French-language education partners if proposals of projects requiring amendments to the *Education Act* or its regulations could, if made, result in changes in governance of French-language education.

1. http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90e02_e.htm
2. http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/charter/page-2.html#anchorbo-ga:l_l-gb:s_23



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INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Education is committed to consult with French-language education partners in implementing this policy on proposals of projects requiring amendments to the *Education Act* and its regulations, which could, if made, result in changes to governance of French-language education.

The purpose of this policy is to describe how to proceed when it is decided that a consultation will take place in order to identify the facts and issues raised by the proposal in relation to matters of governance of French-language education.

DEFINITION

Governance: For the purpose of this policy, governance means management and control over the linguistic and cultural aspects of French-language education.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The principles that guide this consultation policy are:

1. A commitment to the development of French-language education in Ontario; and
2. A commitment to openness and transparency regarding proposals of projects requiring amendments to the *Education Act* and its regulations, which could, if made, effect changes to governance of French-language education.

OBJECTIVES

1. To consult French-language education partners regarding proposals of projects requiring amendments to the *Education Act* or its regulations which could, if made, result in changes to governance of French-language education;
2. To consider the information and opinions provided by the partners consulted; and
3. To inform education partners of any decision made as a result of the consultation.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

This Ministry will invite the following French-language education partners, existing at the time of issuance of this policy or their successors, to participate in consultation sessions:

- ◆ Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
- ◆ Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACEPO)
- ◆ Conseil ontarien des directions d'éducation en langue française (CODELF)
- ◆ Association des gestionnaires de l'éducation franco-ontarienne (AGÉFO)
- ◆ Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
- ◆ Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
- ◆ Parents partenaires en éducation (PPE)
- ◆ Fédération de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne (FESFO)
- ◆ Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario (AFO)
- ◆ Association francophone à l'éducation des services à l'enfance de l'Ontario (AFSEO)
- ◆ Regroupement des élèves conseillers et conseillères francophones de l'Ontario (RECFO)

The Ministry may choose to include other French-language education organizations as partners for the purpose of a consultation.

Any French-language partners in education, as listed above, may request that the Ministry of Education hold a consultation with all the partners in education, if it is considered that one or more questions should be discussed based on the principles of this policy.

Resources needed to hold a consultation session will be agreed upon between the Ministry of Education and the partners in education.



FRENCH-LANGUAGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARDS

The elected members of the French-language public district school boards are represented by Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACEPO).

The elected members of the French-language Catholic district school boards are represented by Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC).

The Directors of Education are represented by Conseil ontarien des directions d'éducation en langue française (CODELF).

The individual French-language district school boards may request to participate in a consultation on the board's behalf if they feel that such representation is necessary with respect to the particular proposal under consideration.

TERMS AND PROCESS OF CONSULTATION

The Minister of Education is responsible for the implementation of the consultation policy. The Minister will determine when a consultation is required and the terms of consultation.

The process regarding the terms of consultation will be established and adapted for each question to be studied through the consultation process. It should, however, be consistent with the principles and objectives of this policy.

