

Ministry of Education

Minister

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Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

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Toronto ON M7A 1L2



April 24, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Ontario's publicly funded education system is among the best in the world. Our students are graduating at the highest rates in our history and are outperforming other jurisdictions in international assessments. Together with our partners, we continue to strive to equip our students with the ability to face new challenges with confidence and compassion.

In September 2017, our government announced a multi-year plan to give students and parents better information about a child's progress and modernize our curriculum and assessment tools from Kindergarten to Grade 12, including new provincial report cards. To inform this work, our government commissioned an independent review of Ontario's student assessment and reporting, led by Dr. Carol Campbell and five other education advisors.

Today, our government released the advisors' final report, [Ontario: A Learning Province](#). It suggests that the status quo is no longer working well enough. Instead, through 18 recommendations, the advisors set out a vision for truly transformational change in our assessment approach. They call for a greater emphasis on and support for classroom assessments conducted by the teachers who work with our students every day. They also recognize that large-scale EQAO assessments provide important public information about the performance of Ontario's education system and inform improvements that will benefit all students.

I am grateful for the thoughtful and comprehensive advice of Dr. Campbell and her colleagues. To prepare a report on subject matter of this breadth and depth in only six months was a tall order, and they rose to the occasion.

I am pleased to hear so many of your voices, as well as the perspectives of our province's students and parents in the report. However, there are still individuals and groups who have not had the opportunity to provide their input, including our First Nation, Métis and Inuit partners. Therefore, while we intend to move forward with our partners on the recommendations for strengthening classroom assessment and reporting, we will continue to engage to make sure all voices are heard, and will work with the Transformation Steering Committee to co-develop a plan for implementation that is aligned with the [curriculum refresh](#).

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At the same time, we will not move forward on the recommendations related to large-scale assessment until there has been further opportunity for engagement. The advisors note that perspectives on this issue are deeply polarized across the education community. I look forward to engaging with students, parents, and all of you in the fall on the evidence and recommendations in this report as we seek a collaborative path forward.

There have been suggestions that we should pause EQAO assessments while future changes are being considered. Although our government recognizes the concerns that have been raised about the status quo, we also know that the public and many others across the system rely on the information provided. For the time being, EQAO's work will proceed as is.

Our schools are the foundation for a caring and competitive Ontario. I have no doubt that [Ontario: A Learning Province](#) will help us improve our publicly funded education system so that every student in Ontario is able to reach their full potential.

Thank you again for your commitment to our students and your ongoing efforts to help strengthen the education system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Indira Naidoo-Harris".

Indira Naidoo-Harris
Minister of Education
Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care