

Ministry of Education

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Ministère de l'Éducation

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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretaries and Supervisory Officers of School Authorities

FROM: Stephen Simard, Regional Manager (A)

DATE: January 29, 2008

SUBJECT: **Curriculum Review of the Social Sciences and Humanities, Grade 9 to 12 Curriculum Policy Document**

Year 5 of the Curriculum Review process began this September. As you know, the review process for each discipline includes consultation through stakeholder information sessions and focus groups.

We are currently working in partnership with the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch of the Ministry of Education to organize a one-day focus group session for representatives from school boards, school authorities, and provincial schools. The purpose of this session is to gather input from teachers, principals, and board-level staff for the review of the **Social Sciences and Humanities, Grade 9 to 12** curriculum policy document. This session will take place:

Thursday, February 21, 2008
Howard Johnson Plaza
Sudbury, Ontario

For this **Social Sciences and Humanities, Grade 9-12 Focus Group Session**, district school boards are invited to send **ten (10) representatives** with experience in this area. We are asking boards to ensure the participants are selected as follows:

- Five (5) family studies teachers- one food and nutrition teacher, one fashion teacher, one parenting teacher, one university/college course specialist, and one workplace course specialist
- One (1) General Social Science teacher
- One (1) World Religions teacher
- One (1) Philosophy teacher
- One (1) Librarian
- One (1) Board representative (e.g., coordinator)

School authorities are invited to send **one representative** to the focus group session.

Participant Preparation

Please note that participants are to be prepared to discuss the strengths of the current curriculum policy documents, to identify potential areas for improvement and to comment on how a specific change may impact on the curriculum. Board representatives may wish to consult with their colleagues prior to the session by asking the following questions:

1. What are the strengths of the curriculum? Why?
2. Are there specific areas that need improvement? If so, what are they?
3. What impact, if any, would a specific proposed change have on the curriculum? For example, what needs to be considered within the grade? Within the discipline? Across other disciplines?

Session Particulars

Detailed information regarding the specific dates, times, and location is included in the chart below.

Curriculum Review Focus Group Session Social Sciences and Humanities Grades 9-12
Date: Thursday, February 21, 2008
Times: 8:15 - 8:45 am – Registration and Continental Breakfast 8:45 – 3:00 – Session
Location: Howard Johnson Plaza, 50 Brady Street, Sudbury (705) 675-5602

A block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate at the Howard Johnson Plaza. Please quote Ministry of Education Focus Group when making your reservations.

Registration

The **Focus Group Registration Form** is attached. Please forward the completed form to Teresa Stewart, Education Officer as soon as possible but no later than **February 13, 2008** by e-mail to teresa.stewart@ontario.ca or by fax to (705) 564-4233

Expense Claim Summary

The **Expense Claim Summary Template** is attached.

Participants are to book and pay for their own accommodations and meals and then submit all bills to their own board for reimbursement.

Each board must then submit *a signed, original board invoice* and the itemized Expense Claim. Please attach a copy of all receipts to the school board invoice.

The Ministry will reimburse participants for the cost of:

- Travel (at the rate of \$.41 per kilometre)
- Hotel accommodation if necessary (for participants travelling 200 km or more return trip)
- For those requiring accommodation, one dinner meal for each night of accommodation (\$20.00/meal). Breakfast and lunch will be provided during the training session for all participants.
- Supply teacher coverage, where required to cover classroom teachers, is at the board's per diem rate.

Please forward the board invoice (with a copy of attached receipts) and the Expense Claim Summary as soon as possible but no later than **March 20, 2008** to:

Fern Crepeau, Education Officer
Sudbury-North Bay Regional Office, Suite 1103
199 Larch Street,
Sudbury P3E 5P9

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Teresa Stewart, Education Officer, by phone at (705) 564-7283 or 1-800- 461-9570, by e-mail at teresa.stewart@ontario.ca , or by fax at (705) 564-4233.

We value the input from school boards and school authorities.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Stephen Simard (A)
Regional Manager