

Ministry of Education

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2015: B04

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Gabriel F. Sékaly
Assistant Deputy Minister
Financial Policy and Business Division

DATE: **February 27, 2015**

SUBJECT: **Process for board approvals for use of benefit plan surpluses during collective bargaining**

A process regarding the usage of benefit plan reserves was described in memoranda 2013:SB24 and 2014:B04. The memoranda indicated that approval is required when a rate reduction, premium holiday or withdrawal from a benefit surplus is being considered. This process was put in place due to the provisions in the memoranda of understanding (MOUs) signed by the sector's bargaining agents and the Ministry of Education.

Bargaining has commenced at some of the labour tables. As a result, the Ministry review of benefit reserve requests are on hold until bargaining is concluded. If a board believes there are special circumstances requiring consideration, please contact Elizabeth Sinasac at Elizabeth.Sinac@ontario.ca or 416-325-8527. During this period, boards should not provide a rate reduction, premium holiday or withdrawal in their benefit plans where approval would otherwise be required.

Original signed by

Gabriel F. Sékaly
Assistant Deputy Minister

cc: Superintendents of Business and Finance
Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)
Ontario Council of Education Workers (OCEW)
Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
Unifor