

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

Minister

Ministre

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SEP 04 2013

August 23, 2013

Ms. Evelyn Peck
President
Ms. Glenna R. Smith
Advocacy Coordinator
Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario
7382 Wellington Road, RR 5
Guelph ON N1H 6J2

Dear Ms. Peck and Ms. Smith,

Thank you for your correspondence addressed to Premier Wynne and to me requesting that the Ministry of Education develop a Lifestyle program to teach students cooking skills, human nutrition and other wellness practices. Mr. Ted Arnott, MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills, also forwarded it to my attention. I am pleased to respond.

Our government is committed to providing the best possible education for all students so that they have the knowledge and skills they need to be successful. There is teaching across many subjects and grades about nutrition, wellness and other skills that will be of value of students in future careers and in life. Some of the learning is through Family Studies courses, which are included in the secondary level Social Sciences and Humanities curriculum.

Health and nutrition are addressed in various subject areas, beginning in the elementary school years. For example, healthy eating is a topic in the Health and Physical Education curriculum. This component of the curriculum equips students with the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy eating choices.

In secondary school, students must complete one health and physical education course to meet the compulsory credit requirements of the OSSD. Hospitality and tourism courses are included in the Technological Education curriculum for Grades 10 to 12. In these courses, students develop food preparation and presentation skills, and they receive hands-on opportunities to learn about various sectors of the hospitality and tourism field.

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You will be pleased to know that on June 6, 2013, the revised Grades 9-12 Social Sciences and Humanities curriculum policy document was released and posted on the Ministry of Education website. School boards will make local decisions in fall 2013 about their ability to implement all or part of this curriculum policy document. Mandatory implementation will begin in September 2014, and training will also be provided to teachers to support the implementation.

At this time, the Ministry of Education is not planning to review the number or type of compulsory credits needed to obtain an OSSD, or to add a Lifestyle program to Ontario education requirements. Information about Healthy Schools, including the new School Food and Beverage policy, is available at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/healthyschools.html

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Liz Sandals". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Liz" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Sandals".

Liz Sandals
Minister

c: The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier

Ted Arnott, MPP
Wellington-Halton Hills