

**Nancy Martins - Federal government quietly collapses adult literacy network**

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**From:** Catherine Soplet <soplet@sympatico.ca>  
**To:** "Nancy Martins" <nmartin@toronto.ca>  
**Date:** 06/04/2014 10:45 AM  
**Subject:** Federal government quietly collapses adult literacy network  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; May27'14\_PeelDSB\_PublicQ\_CLLN.pdf

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Nancy Martins, Clerk

Please make this information available to members of the School Boards Task Force for today's deputation.  
Thank you.

To the Members of the Toronto School Boards Task Force:

The federal government is set to collapse the adult literacy and essential skills sector. Vancouver and GTHA are the lead portals for Canada's new immigration.

**Canadian Literacy and Learning Network @CLLN [www.literacy.ca](http://www.literacy.ca)**

released its statement concerning the collapse of federal funding for adult literacy and essential skills network which will take full effect by June 30, 2014.

Press Release appears below the signature. [[Link to Press Release, On-Line](#)]

The federal move to collapse adult literacy and essential skills program was made known to Peel District School Board via Public Questions on May26. The Public question, and links to press below, and was circulated to Peel's municipal and regional councils on May27. The Public Question is attached.

In BC, public education teachers deliver the literacy and essential skills program. Because of the strife, news of the collapse of the adult literacy program is effectively submerged.

Can you please consider how to make your network be aware ?

Thank you, and  
Best regards,  
Catherine Soplet

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**BACKGROUND**

Recent headlines concerning the collapse of federal funding for adult literacy and essential skills program.

- Ottawa Citizen report made the front page, above the line:  
Tweet: [https://twitter.com/Cdn\\_Literacy/status/469565905031417856](https://twitter.com/Cdn_Literacy/status/469565905031417856)  
Ottawa Citizen article: [Literacy organizations say federal government is abandoning them](#)

@RabbleCA is also boosting the story on Twitter <https://twitter.com/rabbleca/status/473116887367577600>

Here is a tweet with curation of links: <https://twitter.com/nabrHubs/status/472736833265086465>

**Canadian Literacy and Learning Network @CLLN [www.literacy.ca](http://www.literacy.ca)**

released its statement concerning the collapse of federal funding for adult literacy and essential skills network which will take full effect by June 30, 2014.

See below the signature. [[Link to Press Release, On-Line](#)]

Crime prevention stakeholders know that literacy lowers crime rates, and thereby reduces policing and victim costs.

Public school stakeholders understand how low adult literacy is a marker for low student literacy and reduced education

outcomes.

- In 2010-11, a regional Parents Reaching Out grants was funded to implement a model which aimed to improve low adult literacy, and resulted in improved student literacy and education outcomes.

On May 27, collapse of federal funding for adult literacy and essential skills programs was drawn to the attention of Peel District School Board in a public question made at its Regular Meeting of the Board. The Public Question is attached.

Your support of Canadian Literacy and Learning Network and its constituent network members to oppose the federal cuts to programming is appreciated. Please advise your networks.

Best regards,

Catherine Soplek 416-275-9463

2013 Award of Excellence

Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Member, Peel Poverty Action Group



"Schools anchor neighbourhoods,  
attract talent, build prosperity."

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Canadian Literacy and Learning Network <[ahegel@literacy.ca](mailto:ahegel@literacy.ca)>

**Date:** May 26, 2014 at 13:11:42 EDT

**To:** Annette <[annettehegel@yahoo.ca](mailto:annettehegel@yahoo.ca)>

**Subject:** Federal government quietly collapses literacy and essential skills network

**Reply-To:** Canadian Literacy and Learning Network <[ahegel@literacy.ca](mailto:ahegel@literacy.ca)>

Canada's adult literacy field in crisis

[View this email in your browser](#)

## **Federal government quietly collapses literacy and essential skills network**

**Without an announcement or any consultation, it appears that the federal government has decided to quietly collapse Canada's national literacy and essential skills network. This is happening at the same time as community literacy programs across Canada experience a seismic shift and uncertainty of sustained operations, while millions of dollars in federal funding is being effectively diverted from federal-provincial Labour Market Agreements and redirected to the unproven Canada Job Grant program.**

Canada's literacy and essential skills sector is largely comprised of people who work to help others, especially our most vulnerable citizens. Many adult literacy practitioners are now uncertain about their future, and the futures of those they help. There have been increasing reports of staff layoffs in community literacy agencies across the country over the past few months, and we know that this is also happening in many of the federally funded national and provincial literacy organizations, including CLLN.

In Canada, adult literacy instruction is sometimes delivered by community organizations, sometimes in a formal school setting, and sometimes it is incorporated into workplace training. Responsibility for managing and funding adult education and training varies greatly across Canada's 13 provinces and territories. This diversity creates richness in our field but also presents a number of serious challenges. For example, it is difficult to compare adult literacy and essential skills programs across jurisdictions, evaluate their effectiveness, and track results. The sector's workforce is not organized as such (although some may be a member of a union or association), so the layoff of possibly hundreds of people is not making headlines.

**How did this come about? Where is the public policy discussion? Here are the facts as we know them.**

Early in 2013, the federal government published a Call for Proposals (CFP) to create a new "pan-Canadian network" to support adult literacy and essential skills. Based on previous consultations carried out by the department (formerly Human Resources and Social Development Canada, now Employment and Social Development Canada), the CFP presented a fairly clear vision of the expectations the government had for this new network.

Specifically, the CFP defined four components that would comprise the new network: Information and Resources, Connections, Innovation, and Research. Proposals were due in May 2013 with new agreements expected by November—but the decision was delayed, and delayed again.

With the current federal funding for 22 organizations expiring on June 30th, letters finally started arriving mid-May 2014, informing the unsuccessful applicants that their proposals would not be funded. Several of these organizations had already issued layoff notices.

A Calgary Herald story<sup>[1]</sup> about layoffs in the sector quoted an email message from Alexandra Fortier, press secretary to Minister of Employment and Social Development, Jason Kenney. She said that federal funding had been "going to the same organizations to cover the costs of administration and countless research papers, instead of being used to fund projects that actually result in Canadians improving their literacy skills. "These organizations were advised three years ago to give them ample time to prepare (for) the federal government changing the structure of funding through the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills to make it more effective. Canadian taxpayers will no longer fund administration of organizations, but will instead fund useful literacy projects."

**We challenge these statements on several points.**

First, the literacy organizations were certainly not prepared for federal funding to end. While the previous network model was in need of some overhaul, no one anticipated a wholesale dismantling. The groups responding to the CFP did so in good faith, and with a great deal of thought and effort, believing that the government intended to follow through and implement a new network after decisions had been made. Proponents were not prepared for the government to delay and then abandon its own process.

Second, about "useful projects": project-based funding has been clearly identified as one of the major problems with Canada's approach to literacy and essential skills program development and delivery. There have been many highly innovative and successful programs developed in Canada, but once the pilot funding ends, the project closes.

It's also worth mentioning that HRSDC/ESDC has not been spending its literacy project budgets for many years, lapsing millions of dollars annually.

Canada needs to develop a mechanism to identify, scale-up and roll-out the most innovative and successful projects as programs operating across jurisdictions where they can be effective. This has been an area of focus for CLLN over the past few years. Without a national umbrella network to do this work, how will it be possible to maximize the value of the government's investment in these projects?

Third, the value of "administration and research": some administrative overhead is required to have effective national organizations and is not *de facto* a poor use of taxpayer dollars, especially when compared to the overhead costs of running government programs. "Research" was one of the four key functions of the proposed new network; it is disturbing to see the value of research summarily dismissed by the Minister's staff.

The results of the recent OECD international study of adult skills<sup>[2]</sup> show Canada languishing in the middle of the pack. The OECD's key points for policy development include a broad range of observations on the importance of flexible labour market arrangements, incentives for employers, and accessible lifelong learning opportunities.

The European Union is making significant investments in adult education—across jurisdictional and linguistic barriers more complex than Canada’s—with a focus on accessible lifelong learning, improving professional networks, and sharing effective best practices. These are similar to some of the program directions CLLN proposed to pursue.

In Canada, the focus now seems to have narrowed to “closing the skills gap” by training workers for high-demand jobs, rather than “elevating the skills level” of Canadians, so there will be a larger pool of talent ready to take advanced training.

Without a strong essential skills assessment and upgrading component—and this has not been a prominent part of the discussion to date—many advanced skills training programs are not appropriate for Canadians with low foundational skill levels. Either they will not be considered as eligible candidates for a placement or they may not successfully complete their training programs.

Without any announcement, it appears that the federal government is simply going to defund the national literacy and essential skills network, and hope it goes away quietly. So far, that is what has been happening, as the various agencies clung to the hope that their good work was worthy of at least some of the \$5 million per year that the government had budgeted to spend.

But it has become clear that there will be no national strategy on adult education, no inter-jurisdictional council on adult education and training, no national network of non-profits working in literacy and essential skills, and, apparently, not much research. It’s not just the literacy and essential skills sector that the federal government is abandoning—it’s also the most vulnerable low-skilled Canadians.

Board of Directors  
Canadian Literacy and Learning Network

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[1]

<http://www.canada.com/literacy/raiseareader/Federal+government+cuts+adult+literacy+funding+citing+much/9847757/story.html>

[2] [http://skills.oecd.org/documents/SkillsOutlook\\_2013\\_KeyFindings.pdf](http://skills.oecd.org/documents/SkillsOutlook_2013_KeyFindings.pdf)

**Canadian Literacy and Learning Network is the national hub for research, information and knowledge exchange, increasing literacies and essential skills across Canada. CLLN, a non-profit charitable organization, represents literacy coalitions, organizations and individuals in every province and territory in Canada. We share knowledge, engage partners and stakeholders and build awareness to advance literacy and learning across Canada. CLLN is funded by the Government of Canada’s Office of Literacy and Essential Skills.**

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PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Public Question, by Catherine Soplet: to Peel District School Board -- May27, 2014**

Thank you, and through you Madame Chair McDougald ...

Thank you for extending the Board meeting beyond 11pm to take my question.

Today [May27'14] is Ontario Education Day, called by Ontario Public School Boards' Association. Across the province, school boards have called all candidates' debates ahead of the provincial election on June 12, to put a spotlight on public education issues.

My question tonight is concerned with how the collapse of federal funding to adult literacy programs will impact Ontario public education.

Ahead of tonight's Board meeting, via e-mail, a press release was sent to Peel District School Board and Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. The press release from Ottawa-based Canadian Literacy and Learning Network concerns the immediate collapse of federal funding for adult literacy and essential skills programs. [[Link to Press Release, On-Line](#)]

I ASK that Peel District School Board consider how it can convey to both Ontario Public School Boards' Association and the provincial government of how discontinued support of adult literacy programs is detrimental to students Ontario public schools.

Peel District School Board is aware research shows that low adult literacy is a marker for lower student literacy and education outcomes.

- The Board will recall that a 2010-11 Regional PROgrant was funded to address this issue for schools serving Brampton families.

I further ASK that the Board's consideration of this matter, and any decision to act, be mindful of the June 30 deadline to collapse federal funding, and the June12 general election in Ontario.

In comments following the question, the Chair acknowledged receipt of Catherine Soplet's e-mail, late in the day but ahead of the Peel DSB Board meeting, which had not yet been read.

- The Board was made aware of the front page article in the Ottawa Citizen on May26'14, about the collapse of federal funding to the adult literacy program. [ [Link](#) ]
- The Board was made aware that in BC, where program is delivered primarily by teachers in public education, labour strife has effectively silenced any protest to the federal government cuts.

Catherine Soplet  
2013 Award of Excellence,  
Ontario Public School Boards' Association  
Member, Peel Poverty Action Group

416-275-9463 [soplet@sympatico.ca](mailto:soplet@sympatico.ca)  
[@soplet #nabrHUBS](#)

# Presentation to Toronto School Boards Task Force

June 4, 2014 -- 1:00pm

Catherine Sople, resident of Mississauga  
Member, Peel Poverty Action Group

Project Lead for Building Up Our Neighbourhoods,

a pro bono, branded initiative to connect residents to literacy and health.



Slide 1

Click to enlarge graphic on-line

Thank you, Chair Crawford and members of the Task Force for the opportunity to present on the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy.

I am Catherine Sople, a resident of Mississauga  
a Member of Peel Poverty Action Group  
and the Project Lead for Building Up Our Neighbourhoods,  
a pro bono, branded initiative to connect residents to literacy  
and health.

## ASKS FOR TODAY:

1. The Task Force consider its public response to the collapse of the federal funding for adult literacy an essential skills program.
  - Low adult literacy is a marker for lower student literacy, which in turn leads to lower student outcomes
2. The Task Force consider, for recommendation to Executive Committee, that a program be created which will equitably support uptake of Parents Reaching Out grants program for every public school in Toronto.
  - The focus of such a program will be to establish Parents Reaching Out grants in schools which have not yet accessed the program.
3. The Task Force consider, for recommendation to Executive Committee, to create a program to support pilot replication of Regent Park's YEPeducation youth tutor model in marginalized high-settlement schools where Parents Reaching Out grants program has established.

### Slide 2



**In a Public Question on May 27, Peel District School Board was ASKed to consider its response to federal collapse of adult literacy and essential skills programs.**

**Low adult literacy is a marker for lower student literacy, which in turn leads to lower student outcomes.**

**TYES, Item 9a: Inequitable access to education further marginalizes youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime.**

**Tools to mitigate the impact of federal collapsing of adult literacy and essential skills programs are immediately available to implement in Toronto.**



**Literacy funding outrage**

### Slide 3 Click to access tweet with links to Press/ Sector Statement.

### My ASKs are:

1. The Task Force consider its public response to the collapse of the federal funding for adult literacy an essential skills program.
  - Low adult literacy is a marker for lower student literacy, which in turn leads to lower student outcomes
  - Low literacy grows the market for poverty, jails and graves.
2. The Task Force consider for recommendation to Executive Committee that a program be created which will equitably support uptake of Parents Reaching Out grants program for every public school in Toronto.

The focus of such a program will be to establish Parents Reaching Out grants in schools which have not yet accessed the program.
3. The Task Force consider for recommendation to Executive Committee to create a program to support pilot replication of Regent Park's YEPeducation youth tutor model in marginalized high-settlement schools where Parents Reaching Out grants program has established.

**The urgency of today's 1st ASK of the Task Force** for such programs to exist derives from the federal collapse of funding to adult literacy and essential skills program. Funding will cease effective June 30, 2014. The collapse of the program affects the most marginalized and vulnerable adults, and their precariously employed contract service providers in not-for-profit agencies.

In advance of the Task Force meeting today, via e-mail the Task Force was provided with the Public Question made to Peel District School Board on May 27, which has links to front page news in the Ottawa Citizen and the press release from Canadian Learning and Literacy Network.

## Timeline 2007-2017 provided to Standing Committee of Finance

This document provides background to the nomination of Catherine Sopleet for Mississauga's Citizen of the Year.

On January 14, 2014 a pre-Budget presentation was made to the Standing Committee of Finance and Economic Affairs by Catherine Sopleet, project lead for the pro bono branded initiative, Building Up Our Neighbourhoods.

The pre-Budget presentation to the Standing Committee of Finance was anchored with a one-page document, a graphic representation of a ten-year timeline for 2007-2017.

The timeline charts the trajectory from 2007 of a "Big Idea" first recorded in the Mississauga Summit, to a 2017 VISION to create a universal program to boost scholarship, enhance settlement and develop 21st Century Skills: "Citizen Apprenticeship Youth Tutor Program".

The pre-Budget presentation was entitled: *The Future of Public Education: "Youth Action Plan" is "Investment Ready"*. Attention of the Committee was drawn to the lower right corner of the graphic, which represents the "ASKs" of the pre-Budget presentation for the 2014 Budget.

- Keep Parents Reaching Out grants program for 2014.
- Support Parents Reaching Out grants program uptake to tie to targets of regional economic development investments.
- Fund pilot replication of award-winning YEPeducation youth tutor program in sites where Parents Reaching Out program has already established.

Parents Reaching Out grants partner school councils with educator teams in a Project Based Learning model, with a focus to resource parents to help their students have better education outcomes.



Click the graphic to view enlarged version on the internet.

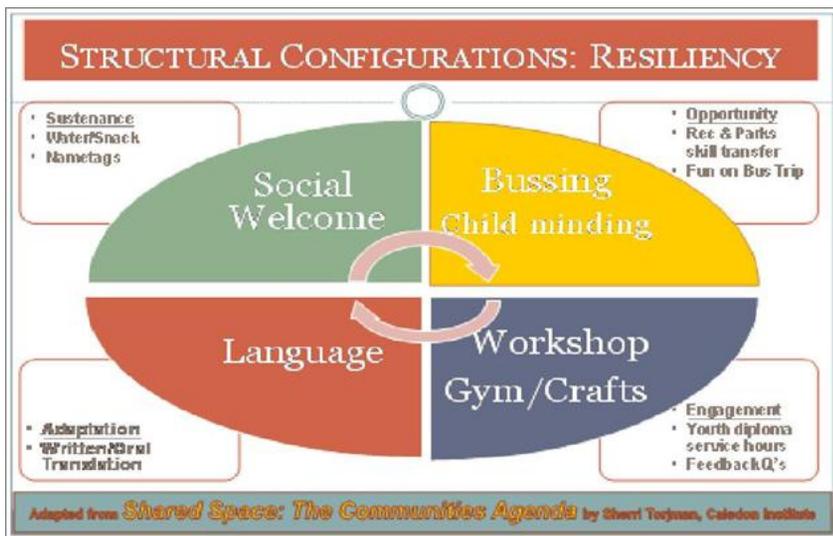
Where Parents Reaching Out grants place, literacy and student outcomes improve.

- Analytics have been routinely collected by Ontario Ministry of Education.
- These analytics can be applied to assess replication of YEPeducation tutor program.

Lower crime rates are also noted where Parents Reaching Out grants establish. The effect is seen in Toronto priority neighbourhoods. Parents Reaching Out grants thus deliver elements of "Youth Action Plan". Safer, more stable neighbourhoods enhance livability.

"Investment Ready" Certified Site Program was announced in August 2013 by Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment. The program bundles regional location assets to attract new business, but does not address livability or talent attraction.

Slide 4 Click Graphic to access January14'14 Hansard



Slide 5 Click Graphic to enlarge on-line.  
 Sherri Torjmann: [Shared Space: The Communities Agenda](#) (2007)  
 Sherri Torjmann: [Recreation and Resilience](#) (2012)

**With respect to ASK's 2 and 3** to consider creation of programs: Such programs will mitigate the impact of the federal collapse of adult literacy and essential skills programs, until the programs can be resuscitated or replaced.

Parallel ASKs for support of Parents Reaching Out grants and pilot replication of YEPeducation youth tutor model were made January 14, 2014 in a detailed presentation to the Standing Committee of Finance and Economic Affairs. The document received by the Clerk of the Standing Committee was provided to the Clerk of the Toronto School Boards Task Force on February 4, 2014 for circulation to the members.

- On a happy note: The first ASK of the preBudget presentation has already been delivered. Parents Reaching Out grants were announced on March 6 with a May 16 application deadline. This is the earliest call with the longest window for PRO grants to be available.

Parents Reaching Out grants program from Ministry of Education is a tool for public school councils to partner with educator teams, to develop resources for parents to help reduce barriers to learning for their students.

The structure of Parents Reaching Out grants is a Project Based Learning model that overlays the resilience schema developed by Sherri Torjmann in her 2007 Book, *Shared Space: The Communities Agenda*.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**  
 More on [Project Based Learning](#)

More on Resilience Framework, in Sherri Torjmann keynote [Recreation and Resilience](#) to inaugural in a keynote to inaugural National Recreation Summit held February 2012.

**Theme 9: Service Gaps is addressed by Parents Reaching Out grants program in public schools**

THEME: Service gaps	ISSUE: Inequitable access to education further marginalizes youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime.	RECOMMENDATION: The City of Toronto will advocate towards and support where appropriate equitable access to education and training for youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime.
9 a	The City of Toronto will increase free and/or affordable access to space for groups offering educational attainment support services to youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime.	Short-term Within existing resources
		TCH SFA TESS TPH Report on number of educational attainment support services. Number of spaces offered to educational attainment services.

TYES: Issues, Recommendations and Actions 7

<https://twitter.com/nabrHubs/status/44565411120026369>

<https://twitter.com/OntYouth/status/455724895411126272>

<https://twitter.com/OPCouncil/status/465865324848766976>

Slide 6 Matching TYES Theme 9 with tweets promoting PROgrants.

**Issues, Recommendations and Proposed actions of the Toronto Youth Strategy (January 7, 2014)**

**Theme 15: Mentorship opportunities for both youth and adults are met with Regent Park's YEPeducation youth tutor model**

THEME: Service gaps	ISSUE: There is a lack of important formal and informal mentorship opportunities for youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime in Toronto.	RECOMMENDATION: The City of Toronto will develop mentorship opportunities for youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime.
15 a	The City of Toronto, working with community partners and private sector partners, will launch a mentorship strategy for youth which includes a stream focused on youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime.	Medium-term 2015 & beyond Table 100 youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime served by mentorship strategy.

2011-12 Annual Progress Report

Partners & Funders

**United Nations Award for YEP**

Youth Empowering Parents was awarded an Intercultural Innovation Award through a partnership between the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the BMW Group. The award was created to encourage intercultural exchange around the world. With more than 400 proposals from 70 countries, the group tabbed YEP as one of only 10 to receive the 2011 Intercultural Innovation Award. "It is both a great honour and a great step towards the very future we envision," said YEP co-founder Agasi Akewerki, in a press release. "This award will certainly help us raise awareness, and attract funding to help us pursue our goal of replicating the program in other communities."

Slide 7 Matching TYES Theme 15 with YEPeducation youth mentors.

Parents Reaching Out grants program thus addresses many of the 110 proposed actions detailed in Issues, Recommendations & Proposed Actions of the [Toronto Youth Equity Strategy](#). Briefly, delivery is made against Themes 9, 15, 21, 22 and 23 as well as others.

Here, Theme 9: [Inset]

**Issue:**

Inequitable access to education further marginalizes youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime.

**Recommendation:**

The City of Toronto will advocate towards and support where appropriate equitable access to education and training for youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime.

**Program to meet the Recommendation:**

Parents Reaching Out grants program was promoted on Twitter for the last application cycle, by [Ontario Public School Boards Association](#), [Ministry of Children and Youth Services](#) and [Ontario Principals' Council](#).

Here, Theme 15: [Inset]

**Issue:**

There is a lack of important formal and informal mentorship opportunities for youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime in Toronto.

**Recommendation:**

The City of Toronto will develop mentorship opportunities for youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime.

**Program to meet the Recommendation:**

Youth Empowering Parents education -- <http://www.YEPeducation.com> -- is a youth tutor model which operates out of Regent Park's Daniels Innovation Centre. City of Toronto is already a partner.

**YOUTH ACTION PLAN, AUGUST 2012**

**POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY**

Literacy grows the top line, and restores fiscal balance.

- Literacy improves economic prospects and participation in society.
  - Literacy grows both the market and the tax base.
- Literacy improves government services delivery, and thereby lowers costs.
  - Literacy is a social determinant of health (Health Council of Canada)
  - Where literacy improves, so do public health outcomes.

In turn, longer term health care costs reduce.

Growing the top line at the same time as costs reduce will restore fiscal balance.

1. Parent grants in schools reduce poverty and build prosperity by boosting literacy and school climate where they place. The effect is seen especially in low-income and high-settlement neighbourhoods such as those identified in Toronto.

Catherine Soplet  
In 2010-11, 26,454 TDSB Model Schools earned five star parent PIR grade. Literacy scores shot up in 1,418 schools. [get the data on www.tdsb.ca/PIR2011](http://tdsb.on.ca/PIR2011)

2. Education metrics make up 30% of indicators of Poverty Reduction Strategy.

**REPORT OF REVIEW OF ROOTS OF YOUTH VIOLENCE**

Report of the Review of Roots of Youth Violence is well-referenced in the [March 2012 Crime Prevention Ontario: A Framework for Action](#) released by Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

Parent grants deliver Protective Factors outlined in the Framework.

Protective Factors			
Individual	Family/Peers	Community	Society
Personal coping strategies Strong attachment to school Positive school experience Self-esteem Sense of responsibility	Abusive parent Admiration Parents engaged in child's life Positive peer influences	Living in close proximity to services Cohesive communities Recreational facilities for youth	Low social tolerance of violence High awareness of the determinants of wellbeing

Slide, from p8 of Dec 12'12 deputation to City of Mississauga.

Slide 8

Click graphic to enlarge image on-line.

### ASKS FOR TODAY:

- The Task Force consider its public response to the collapse of the federal funding for adult literacy an essential skills program.
  - Low adult literacy is a marker for lower student literacy, which in turn leads to lower student outcomes
- The Task Force consider, for recommendation to Executive Committee, that a program be created which will equitably support uptake of Parents Reaching Out grants program for every public school in Toronto.
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- The Task Force consider, for recommendation to Executive Committee, to create a program to support pilot replication of Regent Park's YEP education youth tutor model in marginalized high-settlement schools where Parents Reaching Out grants program has established.

Slide 9

Parents Reaching Out grants program of Ontario Ministry of Education was affirmed in March 2013 by Peel District School Board to make progress against education indicators of the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy and deliver elements of the Ontario Youth Action Plan.

- Parents Reaching Out grants program is identified in the Stepping Up: Strategic Framework to help Ontario's Youth Succeed released in July 2013 by Ministry of Children and Youth Services. The Strategic Framework augments the Ontario Youth Action Plan to be attached to a total of 18 Ministries.

Parents Reaching Out grants program also runs in Toronto schools. I deputed on outcomes seen in TDSB-Model Schools following 2010-11 benchmark year at Community Development and Recreation Committee Motion CD26.2 to call for creation of Toronto Youth Equity Framework and also at Executive Committee Motion EX33.6 to create this Toronto School Boards Task Force.

- Where PRO grants place, literacy and student outcomes improved. With time, EQAO scores reflect improvement. Police report is a co-incident lower rate of crime.

When shown this schema of the Youth Action Plan, the Deputy Minister for Children and Youth Services agreed it was a fair representation of the conjoining of programs -- announced in August 2012. Crime Prevention Framework draws on and codifies recommendations made by the Report of the Review into Roots of Youth Violence.

- Review of Roots of Youth Violence is accepted as the blueprint for how to support youth who are the most vulnerable. The Review also underpins the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy.

Here again are today's three ASK's which, if implemented, will help deliver the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy. These ASK's:

- Strengthen youth outcomes.
- Build resilience.
- Reduce crime.

# The Future of Public Education: \*Youth Action Plan\* is \*Investment Ready\*

## 2014 PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

January 14, 2014

Presentation to Standing Committee on Finance  
and Economic Affairs

**Presented by:**

**Catherine Soplet, Member – Peel Poverty Action Group**

**Lead Strategist – Building Up Our Neighbourhoods**

**@Soplet    [soplet@sympatico.ca](mailto:soplet@sympatico.ca)    #nabrHUBS**



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Pilot Ministry of Education - Parents Reaching Out grants  
at Youth Action Plan Secretariat:  
  
Parents Reaching Out grants boost literacy.  
Literacy lowers crime rates.

## Introduction:

[Parents Reaching Out grants](#), available to parent councils upon application to Ministry of Education, are a low-budget and low-barrier tool to leverage delivery of interministerial initiatives.

- Where PROgrants place, within an academic year student literacy and student success are seen to improve.
- Over time, crime rates are seen to reduce and standardized education scores trend upward. Evidence of the trend is seen in marginalized neighbourhoods of Peel Region and Toronto, and elsewhere.
- Thus parent PROgrants boost delivery of government services, reduce social costs and put in place the building blocks for prosperity.

Education is identified as a key desirable feature for vibrant, thriving communities by Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in its June 2013 [Policy Paper: Social-Economic Development](#). Martin Prosperity Institute made the same earlier observation in its [March 2010 Report: Should I Stay or Should I Go Now?](#) on the residential preferences of highly mobile educated young professionals. Engineers, entrepreneurs, innovators and health care professionals in the 28-55year old demographic select market involvement where their dependents have access to knowledge economy amenities.

[\\*The Future of Public Education\\*](#) was the anchoring question of consultations [From Great to Excellent](#) convened in 2013 by Ontario's Ministry of Education with education sector and public stakeholders.

[\\*The Youth Action Plan\\*](#) was announced in August 2012, in response to a spate of fatal youth shootings in Toronto and elsewhere. It was announced jointly by Ministry of Children and Youth Services and Ministry of Community safety and Correctional Services.

- [\\*The Youth Action Plan\\*](#) was created by attaching recommendations of the 2008 [Report of the Review Into Roots of Youth Violence](#), which had policy uptake in March 2012 [Crime Prevention Framework](#) and legislation expressed in June 2012

[\\*Investment Ready\\*](#) Certified Site Program was announced in August 2013 by Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment.

- Ontario's Investment Ready: Certified Site Program is a province-wide investment attraction program that provides financial and marketing support to those who complete a set of requirements and due diligence for an eligible property.
- An Investment Ready site designation gives investors a greater degree of certainty when looking for development opportunities in Ontario municipalities by providing detailed information about availability, utilities servicing, access and environmental concerns. Providing this information can lead to faster site selection decisions and help get greenfield or expansion projects underway sooner
- Financial assistance will be available to help cover certain costs incurred during the certification process.
- After successfully completing the certification process, Investment Ready sites will be profiled and promoted through a variety of Ontario government marketing channels

## Answers to Questions from the Committee

**Mr. Ted Arnott, MPP for Wellington--Halton Hills (PC)**

Critic, Research and Innovation  
Critic, Intergovernmental Affairs

.... You covered a lot of ground in about 10 minutes and introduced a number of concepts that I don't think the committee has heard to date in the hearings,

There's no question that all members of the House, I think, would want to see greater progress on poverty reduction in the province of Ontario and in Canada, generally, but of course we differ, in some cases, about the best way to do it.

There's no question, as well, that the government has raised expectations that they're going to have a meaningful and effective anti-poverty strategy, and many people have been disappointed with the government's action in that respect.

You mentioned that Parents Reaching Out Grants are a big part of this ....

**Ms. Catherine Soplet:**

...The opportunity of the grants is great; the difficulty is that they are not equitably accessed. So 2012-13 was the first year in which each of 72 public district school boards obtained at least one grant. It took until 2013-14 for all of the identified priority schools to access the grants.

Once the schools get the grants, they tend to get them again. People are taught how to fish....

**Mr. Ted Arnott:**

The money is funded directly to the schools around the school board ...?

**Ms. Catherine Soplet** The [grant] money flows to the school boards. It's provided to the individual schools, and they account for it rigorously. It's the parents and the schools with the councils who make the application, not the school boards.

**Mr. Ted Arnott:**

How are the programs monitored for effectiveness?

**Ms. Catherine Soplet:** Every grant has to report back to the Ministry of Education, and the metrics that are used are those for school success, and further evidence is applied when the EQAO and other standardized testing happens.

[JUMP TO QUESTIONS TRANSCRIPT](#)

## The "ASKs" of the Committee:

- . Keep the Ministry of Education - Parents Reaching Out micro fund grants. Budget for more of them in 2014 and beyond.
- . Pilot a 2014 Economic Development strategy at Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing ICDI: Target supported uptake of Parent Reaching Out grants to deliver \*Youth Action Plan\* in identified \*Investment Ready\* sites. <http://ow.ly/o7EiD>
- . Pilot a 2014 site replication of [www.YEPeducation](http://www.YEPeducation) youth tutor model where Parent Reaching Out grants have already placed.

## How to read this Document:

This document attempts to address the intersectionality required of government to deliver a cross-partisan prosperity framework.

- View in [[Print Layout](#)]
- Hyperlinks may require [**Ctrl**] + [**Click**] to activate
- [**ALT**] + [**TAB**] to toggle between document and internet

PowerPoint slides presented to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, at January 14'14 pre-Budget consultations held in Oakville, Ontario are matched to Hansard transcript of the presentation.

- Slides run down the left, text runs down the right.
- Hansard text is available online <http://ow.ly/sIabF> [permalink to presentation] ... Excerpted from full proceedings: [http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/committee-proceedings/committee\\_transcripts\\_details.do?locale=en&Date=2014-01-14&ParlCommID=8957&BillID=&Business=Pre-budget+consultations&DocumentID=27612](http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/committee-proceedings/committee_transcripts_details.do?locale=en&Date=2014-01-14&ParlCommID=8957&BillID=&Business=Pre-budget+consultations&DocumentID=27612)
- Supplemental comments to the transcript, and hyperlinks to background resources, for clarification.  
eg.

<p>The Future of Public Education: *Youth Action Plan* is *Investment Ready*</p> <p><b>2014 PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS</b> January 14, 2014 Presentation to Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs</p> <p>Presented by: Catherine Sople, Member – Peel Poverty Action Group Lead Strategist – Building Up Our Neighbourhoods @Sople <a href="mailto:sople@sympatico.ca">sople@sympatico.ca</a> #nabrHUBS</p> 	<p><u><a href="#">HANSARD TRANSCRIPT:</a></u></p> <p>BUILDING UP OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS PEEL POVERTY ACTION GROUP</p> <p><b>The Chair (Mr. Kevin Daniel Flynn):</b> Our next presenter is Catherine Sople. Catherine, you're all set up, I understand. Good to see you.</p> <p><i>Supplemental Comments:</i> <i>A Concept vetted August 2013</i> <a href="http://ow.ly/o7EiD">http://ow.ly/o7EiD</a> <i>with a strategy to deploy <a href="http://ow.ly/o7C4t">http://ow.ly/o7C4t</a></i></p>
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**APPENDIX I** is a 3page Feasibility Study Concept provided to Youth Action Plan Secretariat in July 2013. The Feasibility Study Concept calls for supports to target uptake of Parents Reaching Out grants to capture a 3rd year of data in a naturally occurring experiment which could prove the premise:

**Literacy lowers crime rates, and reduces policing and victim costs. This restores fiscal balance to municipal budgets.**

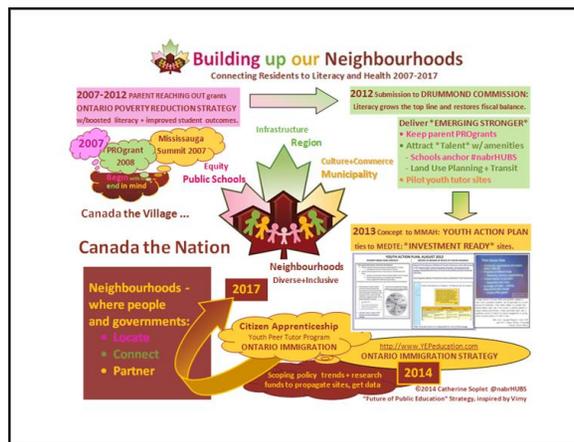
With August 2013 announcement of \*Investment Ready\*, the Feasibility Study Concept was provided to affiliate Ministries and stakeholders.

The Feasibility Study Concept was also filed with 9of19 consultations of Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy held August-October 2013.

# How to read the Timeline graphic:

Members of the pre-Budget consultations of the Standing Committee of Finance and Economic Affairs were provided with a Timeline graphic.

- The Timeline 2007-2017 is the Building Up Our Neighbourhoods project in public education, which seeks to establish a Citizen Apprenticeship Youth Tutor Program for Canada's sesquicentennial, in 2017. The program concept was considered for uptake by SIG@MaRS in February 2011.



Click to access enlarged graphic [on-line](#)  
[ALT] [TAB] to toggle screen | document

Intersectionality of governments  
in the neighbourhoods of Ontario



Key to the logo on-line: <http://ow.ly/pYBYw>

Members of the Committee were informed of progress made against poverty seen where Ministry of Education- Parents Reaching Out grants place in Ontario's public schools. from 2006-2013.

2007-2012 PARENT REACHING OUT grants  
make progress on education indicators of  
ONTARIO POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY  
w/boosted literacy + improved student outcomes.

BACKGROUND 2007-2012  
Click to jump to Slides 5-15

Members of the Committee were informed how Parents Reaching Out grants deliver on five ASKs of *Emerging Stronger* document co-authored by Ontario Chamber of Commerce and Mowat Centre for Policy Innovation in January 2012.



RESTORE FISCAL BALANCE  
Emerging Stronger 2013  
Click to jump to Slides 16-19

LET'S TALK: Youth Action Plan  
2014 ==> 2017  
Co-ordinating Economic Dev't  
Click to jump to Slides 20-25

Members of the Committee were ASKed to pilot Parents Reaching Out grants at Interministry Community Development Initiative-Municipal Affairs & Housing.

- Parent PROgrants place the face, technology and regional context of the community onto the school landscape, parametered by policy for diversity, equity and inclusion.

RESULT: Regional economic specialization pathways in public education, improved settlement  
Details, See [Slide12](#) and [Slide15](#) LOCAL <=> GLOBAL  
Click graphic to enlarge.



# The Future of Public Education: \*Youth Action Plan\* is \*Investment Ready\*

## 2014 PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

January 14, 2014

Presentation to Standing Committee on Finance  
and Economic Affairs

Presented by:

Catherine Soplet, Member – Peel Poverty Action Group  
Lead Strategist – Building Up Our Neighbourhoods  
@Soplet [soplet@sympatico.ca](mailto:soplet@sympatico.ca) #nabrHUBS



Slide 1

## HANSARD TRANSCRIPT:

### BUILDING UP OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS PEEL POVERTY ACTION GROUP

**The Chair (Mr. Kevin Daniel Flynn):** Our next presenter is Catherine Soplet. Catherine, you're all set up, I understand. Good to see you.

Thank you very much. I'm happy to be here this morning. I'm a member of Peel Poverty Action Group, and I'm the lead strategist for Building Up Our Neighbourhoods.

Building Up Our Neighbourhoods is my brand to connect residents to literacy and health. I'm an advocate in public education. In particular, the tool I will present to the committee this morning is Parents Reaching Out Grants.

- For my efforts to raise awareness and cite [sic] the grants, I received the 2013 Award of Excellence from the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.

I'm a director of the Canadian Transportation Education Foundation. In 2013, CTEF made a \$25,000 donation to the Bramalea trucking and coach technology high school specialization program operated by Peel District School Board in Brampton through Bramalea Secondary School.

I'm a member of the volunteer committee of the Institute for Canadian Citizenship...

.. and I am employed as a piano accompanist at a nursery school.

With me today I have Anastasia Toliias of Ellinida.com.

We listened with great interest to the presentation that you just heard. Ellinida.com is specializing in community development with a view to transitional housing for marginalized mental health and criminal justice system people, to affordably house them and reintegrate them into civil society. Today I will be speaking to you about:

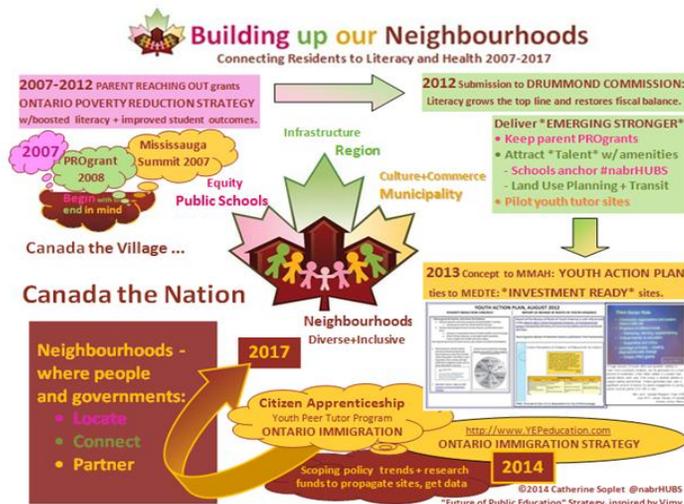
**The Future of Public Education:  
The \*Youth Action Plan\* is \*Investment Ready\***

## ASKs of today's presentation:

- Mainstay and augment availability of Ministry of Education – Parent Reaching Out grants.
- Pilot a 2014 Economic Development strategy Concept for Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing:  
Target supported uptake of Parent Reaching Out grants to deliver \*Youth Action Plan\* in identified \*Investment Ready\* sites. <http://ow.ly/o7EiD>
- Pilot a 2014 site replication of [www.YEPeducation](http://www.YEPeducation.com) youth tutor model where Parent Reaching Out grants have already placed.



Slide 2 Pilot 2014: <http://ow.ly/o7EiD> [www.YEPeducation.com](http://www.YEPeducation.com)



Slide 3 Click to access graphic enlarged on-line <http://ow.ly/t6raQ>

So the ASKs of today are:

- to mainstay and augment availability of Ministry of Education Parents Reaching Out Grants and
- to pilot a 2014 economic development strategy concept for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing using the grants, by supported uptake of Parents Reaching Out Grants to deliver the Youth Action Plan in identified Investment Ready sites.

These [two] concepts—Youth Action Plan and Investment Ready—are policy initiatives that were implemented in 2012 and 2013. Thirdly:

- to pilot a 2014 site replication of YEPeducation. It's a youth tutor model which currently operates in Regent Park. It has twice received Intercultural Innovation awards from the UN. It is looking to scale sites and to get data in order to better deliver Ontario's Immigration Strategy.

## ASKs of today's presentation:

Pilot a 2014 Economic Development strategy Concept for Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing:

Target supported uptake of Parent Reaching Out grants:

Deliver \*Youth Action Plan\* in identified \*Investment Ready\* sites.



Slide 4 Click to read the slide on-line

Click to enlarge graphic on-line <http://ow.ly/t2dm0>

Youth Action Plan <http://ow.ly/t4zhe>

See [Slide12](#)

Future of Public Education <http://ow.ly/t4ArM>

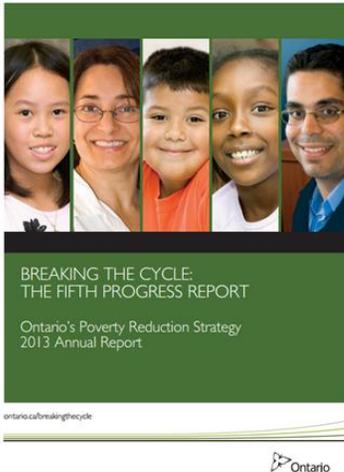
See [Slide15](#)

## About today's presentation:

- Introduction to Building Up Our Neighbourhoods
- Rationale for "ASKs"
- Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy [OPRS] 2008 - 2013
- Parent Reaching Out grants deliver on OPRS and also for Ontario's Youth Action Plan 2012
- Municipalities drive prosperity:  
How to position levers for 21<sup>st</sup> Century knowledge economy production? Here's a Concept...
- Third Sector role in Public Education: Pro bono factor  
Youth tutor model delivers elements of Ontario Immigration Strategy



### Slide 5



- 2008 – Public consultations
- 2009 – Unanimous adoption of legislation
- 2011 – PROgrants continue
- 2012 –  
Drummond Commission Youth Action Plan
- 2013 – Public Consultations for the next 5 year plan

### Slide 6 [2013 Breaking the Cycle Report](#)

First of all, I've [already] introduced myself.

The rationale for the ASKs deals with my involvement with Peel Poverty Action Group.

The tool of the Parents Reaching Out Grants responds to Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy. The Parents Reaching Out Grants deliver the Youth Action Plan 2012.

Municipalities drive prosperity, so what we need to know is how to position levers for 21st-century knowledge economy production, and that's the [Feasibility Study] Concept.

The third-sector role in public education is the next step; that's YEP education.

Here is the [Breaking the Cycle] report for the five years—2008 to 2013—on the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy. In 2009, the 2008 report was unanimously adopted.

In 2011, there was a tip in outcomes from a widespread uptake of Parents Reaching Out Grants in the Region of Peel and also in the Toronto District School Board—Model Schools for Inner Cities. At that time, the minister of the day, Ms. Dombrowsky, affirmed that the grants would continue... And, they have.

In 2012, we had the Youth Action Plan, which resulted from the [summer's fatal youth] shootings. What that did was it [Youth Action Plan] conjoined the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy with the Review of the Roots of Youth Violence, which had been, until that point, shelved.

In 2013, we had our consultations for the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy. The [Feasibility Study] Concept, which you will learn about at the end of the presentation, has been filed with nine out of 19 of the consultations held across Ontario.

The Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy has eight indicators.

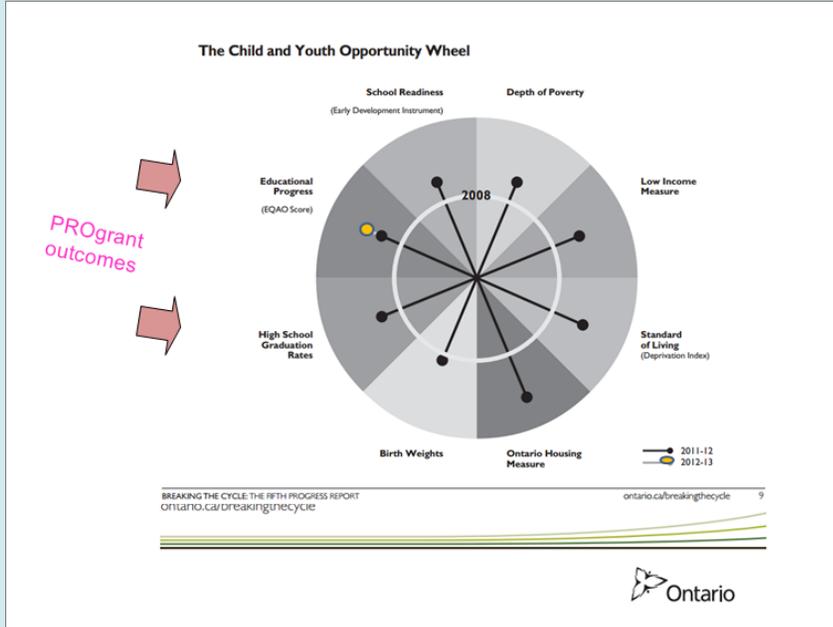
Two of them are education-based, where the arrows are. We are speaking about the EQAO scores and high school graduation rates.

**Breaking the Cycle: Indicators of Opportunity**

The eight indicators are:

1. School Readiness
2. High School Graduation Rates
3. Educational Progress [eg. EQAO]
4. Birth Weights
5. Low Income Measure
6. Depth of Poverty
7. Standard of Living
8. Ontario Housing Measure

Indicator Details, p56 of [2013 Breaking the Cycle Report](#)



Slide 7 P9, [2013 Breaking the Cycle Report](#)

**Parents Reaching Out Grants**

The Parents Reaching Out Grants program is a grassroots initiative to support parents in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their own community, and finding local solutions to help more parents get involved in their children's learning at home and at school. Grants support enhanced parent engagement at the local, regional and provincial levels with a particular focus on parents who face barriers to parent engagement.

**What We Have Invested**

Our government is providing \$1.5 million in 2013-14 to support Parents Reaching Out Grants.

**What We Have Achieved**

In 2009-10, a portion of the Parents Reaching Out Grants initiative was reallocated to help school councils target barriers that are experienced by parents in low-socioeconomic areas.

Since 2006, the government has awarded over 13,000 grants to school councils and 163 regional/provincial grants. This is a total investment of nearly \$11 million to increase parent involvement in support of student achievement and well-being.

In the 2013-14 application cycle, for the first time, 100 per cent of submissions from Priority Schools were approved for full or partial funding. We are pleased with the response from Priority Schools and will continue to promote the participation of Priority Schools in the program.

**Next Steps**

Implementation of the 2013-14 Parents Reaching Out Grants cycle will continue during the school year.

**Why It Matters**

Parent engagement is a critical part of supporting students to succeed in our schools. That is why we have invested nearly \$1.5 million since 2006 in Parents Reaching Out Grants. Through this investment, many parents are working to identify barriers to parent engagement and finding local solutions.

**Did You Know?**

In 2012, the Parents Reaching Out Grants program received over 1,000 applications from school councils and Centres for Parent and Family Involvement. The program is a key component of the world's largest parent and family involvement program, the world's largest parent and family involvement program, the world's largest parent and family involvement program.

**Parents Reaching Out Grants**

The Parents Reaching Out Grants program is a grassroots initiative to support parents in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their own community, and finding local solutions to help more parents get involved in their children's learning at home and at school. Grants support enhanced parent engagement at the local, regional and provincial levels with a particular focus on parents who face barriers to parent engagement.

“Where parent PROgrants place literacy and student outcomes improve. The effect is especially seen in schools serving high-settlement and income-gapped families.”

-- July 2011, Hon. Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Education

ontario.ca/breakingthecycle

Slide 8 P32, [2013 Breaking the Cycle Report](#)

Where Parents Reaching Out Grants place, literacy and student outcomes improve.

The effect is especially seen in schools serving high-settlement and income-gapped families.

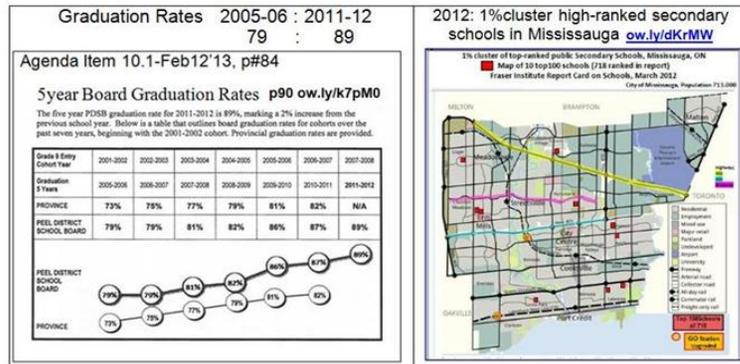
Top of Slide, P32 of [Breaking the Cycle: The Fifth Progress Report](#)

**Parents Reaching Out Grants**

The Parents Reaching Out Grants program is a grassroots initiative to support parents in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their own community, and finding local solutions to help more parents get involved in their children's learning at home and at school.

Grants support enhanced parent engagement at the local, regional and provincial levels with a particular focus on parents who face barriers to parent engagement.

## Excellence in public education and hope for the future ...



Slide 9 Graph p90 at <http://ow.ly/k7pM0> Map <http://ow.ly/dKrMW>

## push back on poverty in high-settlement, income-gap Peel.



GTA

@StarGTANews Reporter @rachelmendleson  
April 6,8,10 2013 Stories [ow.ly/k6G9t](http://ow.ly/k6G9t)



**Peel Region services for poor stretched to limit**  
Tue Apr 09 2013  
Emergency social services, child care and affordable housing have not kept pace with the rise of low-income families in Peel Region. | [□](#)



**Peel Region a destination for immigrants, but jobs lacking**  
Mon Apr 08 2013  
Immigration has fuelled the rise of inequality in Peel Region, where one-third of newcomers live on a low income. | [□](#)



**Peel transformed from middle-class suburbia to income extremes**  
Sat Apr 06 2013  
New data reveal that income disparity in Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon are on par with many major Canadian cities. | [□](#)



Slide 10 Listing of stories: <http://ow.ly/k6G9t>

This is a graphic which depicts what has happened in the Region of Peel.

For the five years ending in [June] 2012, Peel District School Board reported education graduation rates from high school had increased 10% over five years.

As we can see, they are tracking ahead of the provincial standard.

To the right, we have a map of Mississauga. The red dots represent 10 out of the top 100 schools in the 2012 ranking of the Fraser Institute Report Card on Ontario's Secondary Schools. So 10 out of 100 is a 1% cluster of high-ranked schools. The red dots are the schools. It happens that the red dots locate in underpinning villages of Mississauga.

We know also that the region of Peel is facing poverty. There was a three-part series reported in the Toronto Star in April 2013.

The interesting question is:

How can education outcomes be tracking upwards

- in a place that's facing poverty,
- where the population has doubled in 15 years,
- where 50% of people are born somewhere else and
- where more than 90 languages are spoken?

If we're getting excellence out of that chaos, how is that done?  
The answer is: Parents Reaching Out Grants.

The MAP <http://ow.ly/dKrMW> links to May2012 article by Dr. Michael Fullan in Atlantic Insight which details success of Ontario public education since 2003 <http://tinyurl.com/76chenn>

**Parents Reaching Out Grants**  
The Parents Reaching Out Grants program is a grassroots initiative to support parents in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their own community, and finding local solutions to help more parents get involved in their children's learning at home and at school. Grants support enhanced parent engagement at the local, regional and provincial levels with a particular focus on parents who face barriers to parent engagement.

**What We Have Invested**  
Our government is providing \$13.5 million in 2013-14 to support Parents Reaching Out Grants.

**What We Have Achieved**  
In 2009-10, a portion of the Parents Reaching Out Grants initiative was reallocated to help school councils target barriers that are experienced by parents in low socio-economic areas. Since 2006, the government has awarded over 13,000 grants to school councils and 167 regional/provincial grants. This is a total investment of nearly \$21 million to increase parent involvement in support of student achievement and well-being. In the 2013-14 application cycle, for the first time, 100 per cent of submissions from Priority Schools were approved for full or partial funding. We are pleased with the response from Priority Schools and will continue to promote the participation of Priority Schools in the program.

**Next Steps**  
Implementation of the 2013-14 Parents Reaching Out Grants cycle will continue during the school year.

**Why It Matters**  
Parent engagement is a critical part of improving outcomes for students in our schools. That is why we have invested nearly \$21 million since 2006 in Parent Reaching Out Grants. Through this investment, more parents are working to identify barriers to parent engagement and finding local solutions.

**Did You Know?**  
In 2010, the Parents Reaching Out grants program received international recognition through a McKinsey and Company report analyzing high-achieving school systems across the world. Delegations from other high-performing school systems (Singapore and Finland, for example) are visiting Ontario to learn about Ontario's multi-pronged approach to parent engagement, including the Parents Reaching Out grant program.

**#SDoH**

**#1**

ontario.ca/breakingthecycle

Slide 11 P32 [2013 Breaking the Cycle Report](#)

**YOUTH ACTION PLAN, AUGUST 2012**

**POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY**

Literacy grows the top line, and restores fiscal balance.

- Literacy improves economic prospects and participation in society.
  - Literacy grows both the market and the tax base.
  - Literacy improves government services delivery, and thereby lowers costs.
    - Literacy is a social determinant of health (Health Council of Canada)
      - Where literacy improves, so do public health outcomes. In turn, longer term health care costs reduce.

Growing the top line at the same time as costs reduce will restore fiscal balance.

1. Parent grants in schools reduce poverty and build prosperity by boosting literacy and school climate where they place. The effect is seen especially in low-income and high-settlement neighbourhoods such as those identified in Toronto.

2. Education metrics make up 30% indicators of Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy indicators by which to make progress.

**REPORT OF REVIEW OF ROOTS OF YOUTH VIOLENCE**

Report of the Review of Roots of Youth Violence is well-referenced in the *March 2012 Crime Prevention Ontario: A Framework for Action* released by Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

Parent grants deliver Protective Factors outlined in the Framework.

Crime Prevention in Ontario: A Framework for Action

"Partnerships are an integral part of effective crime prevention, given the wide-ranging nature of the causes of crime and the skills and responsibilities required to address them. This includes partnerships involving police agencies and relevant authorities, community organizations, non-governmental organizations, the business sector and private citizens."

— Institute for the Prevention of Crime (2008)

Individual	Family/Peer	Community	Society
Personal coping strategies Strong attachments to school Self-esteem Self-efficacy Sense of responsibility	Responsible parenting Parent(s) engaged in child's life Positive peer influences	Meaning in close proximity to services Cohesive communities Recreational facilities for youth	Low social tolerance of violence High awareness of the determinants of well-being

Slide, from p8 of Dec 12'12 deputation to City of Mississauga.

Slide 12 Graphic <http://ow.ly/t4zhe> Tweet <http://ow.ly/jiqfn>

The Parents Reaching Out Grants in 2010 received an international award from McKinsey and Co.

What the parent grants do is resource parents in self-selected activities which are of one academic school year duration.

They [parents] work with principals and educators to resource parents to learn how to help their children do better in school.

Because they [the parent PROgrants] can tailor to the community and to the context, then in high school you would have a different program which responds to student needs than you would in a primary school that would be located in a high-settlement, income-gapped neighbourhood.

**Callout: #SDoH [Social Determinants of Health]**

"Parent engagement is a critical part of improving outcomes for students in our schools.... Parents work to identify barriers and find local solutions. Click #1 Star to read more....."

Nearly \$21million invested in PROgrants since 2006

- \$3.5 million invested in 2013-14.
    - For the first time, 100% of Priority Schools proposals were approved for full or partial funding
- In total since 2006 -- 13,000 grants awarded to school councils and a further 467 regional/provincial grants

This is the Youth Action Plan -- conjoining in 2012 the [Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy](#) with the [Crime Prevention Framework](#).

When I showed this diagram to a deputy minister at the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, he immediately acknowledged this was what he saw.



June 2013

**Third Sector Role**

- Community organizations and leaders have a vital role
- Programs of different kinds
  - Mentoring, learning, supplementing
- 'Critical friends' to education
  - Supporters and critics
- Leverage principle – creating disproportionate change
  - Ontario PRO grants

[ow.ly/1UI13](http://ow.ly/1UI13)

"A huge amount of human effort and goodwill, leading to many more successful students, can be generated by a small amount of investment, a few million dollars in a system that spends billions each year, if the money is carefully allotted to support lasting partnerships. Ontario generates each year a significant amount of activity for parent engagement by giving parent councils grants of \$1,000 or less."

Ben Levin, Canada Research Chair-OISE  
June 2013, Literary Review of Canada  
Smarter School Reform



Slide 15 Graphic: <http://ow.ly/t4ArM> Text: <http://ow.ly/1UI13>

**Parents Reaching Out Grants**

The Parents Reaching Out Grants program is a grassroots initiative to support parents in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their own community, and finding local solutions to help more parents get involved in their children's learning at home and at school. Grants support enhanced parent engagement at the local, regional and provincial levels with a particular focus on parents who face barriers to parent engagement.

**What We Have Invested**

Our government is providing \$15 million in 2013-14 to support Parents Reaching Out Grants.

**What We Have Achieved**

In 2008-09, a number of the Parents Reaching Out Grants initiative was refocused to help school councils target barriers that are experienced by parents in five socio-economic areas.

Since 2006, the government has awarded over 13,000 grants to school councils and 467 regional-based grants. This is a total investment of nearly \$2.1 billion to increase parent involvement in support of student achievement and well-being.

In the 2013-14 application cycle, for the first time, 100 per cent of submissions from Priority Schools were approved for full or partial funding. We are pleased with the response from Priority Schools and will continue to promote the participation of Priority Schools in the program.

**Next Steps**

Implementation of the 2013-14 Parents Reaching Out Grants cycle will continue during the school year.



ontario.ca/breakingthecycle

**Why It Matters**

Parent engagement is a critical part of improved learning for students in our schools. This is why we have invested nearly \$2.1 billion since 2006 in Parents Reaching Out Grants. Through this investment, more parents are working to identify barriers to parent engagement and finding local solutions.

**Did You Know?**

In 2010, the Parents Reaching Out grants program received national recognition through a Ministry of Ontario award recognizing high-achieving school across the world. Ontario's first ever high-achieving school across Ontario and Canada for overall performance was recognized through an international award in parent engagement, making the Parents Reaching Out grants program.

**Parents Reaching Out Grants**

The Parents Reaching Out Grants program is a grassroots initiative to support parents in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their own community, and finding local solutions to help more parents get involved in their children's learning at home and at school. Grants support enhanced parent engagement at the local, regional and provincial levels with a particular focus on parents who face barriers to parent engagement.

Parent Reaching Out grants put:

- Face
- Technology
- Regional Context

into Ontario public education which is parametered for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.  
#OntEd PPM119, June 2010

Slide 16 P32 [2013 Breaking the Cycle Report](#)

The third-sector role: This is the next step of the development in public education.

The Parents Reaching Out Grants were identified by Ben Levin, who was first involved with them in 2003, as producing outlying leveraging results.

**The slide reads:**

*A huge amount of human effort and goodwill, leading to many more successful students, can be generated by a small amount of investment, a few million dollars in a system that spends billions each year, if the money is carefully allotted to support lasting partnerships. Ontario generates each year a significant amount of activity for parent engagement by giving parent councils grants of \$1,000 or less.*

*Dr. Ben Levin, Canada Research Chair- Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto  
From: "Getting to Better Schools" published June 2013 in Literary Review Canada <http://ow.ly/1UI13>*

*Dr. Levin was Deputy Minister for Education from 2004-2007, during the development and deployment phase of Parents Reaching Out grants and Parent Engagement Policy. Dr. Levin was again Deputy Minister for Education 2008-2009.*

**Parents Reaching Out Grants put:**

- the face
- the technology and
- the regional context of the community

**onto the school landscape, where it's parametered for:**

- diversity
- equity and
- inclusion.

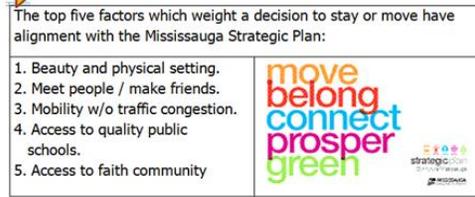
**How PROgrants:**

- **incubate innovation:** <http://ow.ly/dxzY9>
- **use key management levers for excellence** <http://ow.ly/o1Od/> ref. Boston Consulting Group <http://ow.ly/o10Be>

## The "Drummond Commission"- January 2012



Literacy:  
Grows the top line  
Reduces social costs  
→  
Restores fiscal balance  
Builds Prosperity



Slide 17 ASKs of Drummond Commission <http://ow.ly/fo4qa>  
"Talent" top5 preferences <http://ow.ly/t1TLb> Enlarge [MAP](#)

## The "Drummond Commission"- January 2012

Slide 18 Ontario Chamber of Commerce [Emerging Stronger](#)

I made a submission to the Drummond commission in January 2012. I had three asks:

- The first was to mainstay and augment the availability of Parents Reaching Out Grants.
- I drew attention to the fact that schools anchor neighbourhoods, attract talent and build prosperity.
- The third ask was for a pilot site of what we now know to be the YEPeducation youth tutor program.

[Here's] How schools attract "talent": In 2010, the Martin Prosperity Institute identified the five chief factors which attract talent. Why do we want to attract talent? Because these are the engineers, the entrepreneurs, the inventors and the innovators who help to re-key the economy into the 21st century. If you do not provide the environment for people, they will not come. Because they are mobile, they will go somewhere else, and that's what we see.

ASKs in 2012 of Drummond Commission <http://ow.ly/fo4qa>

Martin Prosperity Institute, March 2010 Report:

<http://ow.ly/lVoKy> referenced in October 2011 deputation made to City of Mississauga <http://tinyurl.com/c69jm99>

The Drummond commission was flavoured by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce activities and the Mowat Centre for Policy Innovation.

In 2012, just prior to the Drummond commission report, they released Emerging Stronger.

Emerging Stronger had five ASKs. All of these ASKs of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce are addressed by outcomes of the Parents Reaching Out Grants, particularly point No.3:

- Restoring fiscal balance by improving the way government works.

[Emerging Stronger 2014](#) released January 28, 2014.

## WHY+HOW: Parent PROgrants 2012

**Literacy grows the top line, and restores fiscal balance.**

- Literacy improves economic prospects and participation in society.
  - Literacy grows both the market and the tax base.
- Literacy improves government services delivery thus lowers costs.
  - Literacy is a social determinant of health (Health Council of Canada)
  - Where literacy improves, so do public health outcomes. In turn, longer term health care costs reduce.

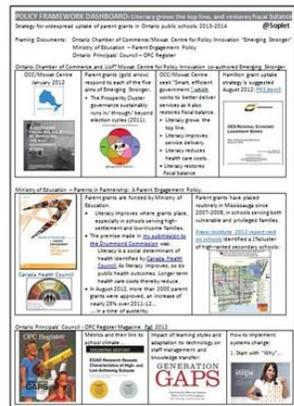
**Growing the top line while costs reduce will restore fiscal balance.**

Improved literacy is quickly evident and sustained where micro fund parent grants place in Ontario public education. Parent grant sites explain these rankings of **Fraser Institute 2012 Report Card for Ontario schools:**

- A1's cluster of high-ranked secondary schools in Mississauga where grants routinely place in catchment schools.
- Pivotal improved EQAO testing performance in Toronto's priority neighbourhoods despite impacts of 2008 global economic collapse.



**Catherine Soplet**  
 In 2008-09, Redfox TDSB Model Schools achieved first time parent PRO grants. Literacy systems stood up in L4H9 schools per <http://ow.ly/ucNYJ85S>



<http://ow.ly/icorE>

Slide 19 WHY: <http://ow.ly/icorE> HOW: <http://ow.ly/i7Uzu>

## Mowat Centre for Policy Innovation: November 2013



Slide 20 Let's Talk: Webpage <http://ow.ly/ucGxZ>

## How and why parent grants work: Parent PROgrants

- Grow the top line, reduce social costs, restore fiscal balance and put in place the building blocks for prosperity.

The policy framework on the right is different documents from the Ministry of Education, the [Ontario] Chamber of Commerce and the Ontario Principals' Council. It [Ontario Principals' Council] acknowledges the transparent metrics which are used to evaluate the grants.

WHY parent PROgrants are the solution: <http://ow.ly/icorE>

HOW parent PROgrants work: <http://ow.ly/i7Uzu>

In November [2013], the Mowat Centre for Policy Innovation said we have to start conjoining development with development of human capital.

[Ahead of Mowat Centre's Report] I said that in August 2013 when I publicized on Twitter that we need to have a targeted uptake of Parents Reaching Out Grants matched with Investment Ready economic development.

Let's Talk: Coordinating Economic Development Spending in Canada: <http://ow.ly/ucGYO> November 2013 Report

August 2013



Slide 21 Concept: <http://ow.ly/o7EiD> Strategy: <http://ow.ly/o7C4t>

Path to Prosperity: Public Education + Entrepreneurship + Corporate Social Responsibility		
<p>Freeland's 3-part call to restore the middle class is in the leftmost column.</p> <p>2012 Submission to Drummond Commission: "Schools anchor neighbourhoods, attract talent, build prosperity."</p> <p>High-leveraging outcomes evidenced where Parent Reaching Out grants place in public schools were provided by Catherine Soplet in a January 2012 submission to the 'Drummond Commission'.</p> <p>The submission's three themes run down the centre column to show the alignment with Freeland's 3-part Path to Prosperity.</p> <p>Catherine Soplet is an advocate for Ontario public education. She received the 2013 Award of Excellence from Ontario Public School Boards' Association for work to place micro fund Parent Reaching Out council grants in schools since 2007-08.</p> <p>The grants are available to parent councils upon application from Ministry of Education to resource parent/educator collaborative peer learning which focuses to improve student outcomes. They are structurally framed for accountability to policy and analytics.</p> <p>Where grants place, such as in high-settlement and income-gapped schools of Peel District School Board, literacy and student outcomes improve, and crime rates reduce. Over time, annual EQAO scores and secondary school graduation rates are seen to trend upward.</p>	<p><b>Public education</b></p> <p><b>Schools anchor neighbourhoods</b></p> <p>Map of Mississauga: 16 cluster high-ranked secondary schools <a href="http://ow.ly/dkRrMW">http://ow.ly/dkRrMW</a></p> <p><b>Entrepreneurship</b></p> <p><b>Attract talent</b></p> <p>Deputation October 14, 2011 "Building Up Our Neighbourhoods" City of Mississauga <a href="http://ow.ly/hqEGU">http://ow.ly/hqEGU</a></p> <p><b>Corporate Social Responsibility</b></p> <p><b>Align business success with public good</b></p> <p>Canadian Medical Association: "Health=Wealth / Poor Health=Poverty #SDoH is the cure" <a href="http://ow.ly/nXCMP">http://ow.ly/nXCMP</a></p>	<p>Improved: Literacy metrics, student wellness, student outcomes, Lower crime rates.</p> <p>Deliver many of MCYS - 20 Priority Outcomes in June 2013 Stepping UP: Strategic Framework to Help Ontario's Youth Succeed <a href="http://ow.ly/mtae0">http://ow.ly/mtae0</a></p> <p>Structure experiments by which to incubate innovation: Dr. Kevin Desjouis <a href="http://ow.ly/dxaY9">http://ow.ly/dxaY9</a></p> <p>Use three key management levers for high performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build future leadership.</li> <li>• Attract diverse talent.</li> <li>• Use transparent merit metrics <a href="http://ow.ly/o10d1">http://ow.ly/o10d1</a></li> </ul> <p>See Boston Consulting Group "From Capability to Profitability" <a href="http://ow.ly/o10Be">http://ow.ly/o10Be</a></p> <p>Literacy grows the top-line, and restores fiscal balance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy improves employment prospects, civic engagement and health outcomes.</li> <li>• Literacy lowers crime rates, reduces policing, victim and longer term health care costs. <a href="http://ow.ly/icoeE">http://ow.ly/icoeE</a></li> </ul> <p>The face, technology and context of the community are brought onto the school landscape where Parent Reaching Out grants place. The grants thus innovate a civil society feedback loop in public education for regionally viable lifelong learning and tightened timelines for flexible knowledge transfer. Business success and public good align. <a href="http://ow.ly/v8t8B">http://ow.ly/v8t8B</a></p> <p>It's a VISION for Building Up Our Neighbourhoods.</p>

<http://ow.ly/oZKXS>

Slide 22 Path to Prosperity :: PROgrants <http://ow.ly/oZKXS>

[Here -- ]  
The Parents Reaching Out Grants offset against a matrix of— [Path to Prosperity].

Chrystia Freeland, in her op-ed of July 2013, said the path to prosperity is public education, entrepreneurialism and business success, which aligns with the public good.

[The matrix offsets Freeland's views] , offsetting against my submission to the Drummond commission, which said schools anchor neighbourhoods—that's literacy— attract talent—that's parents—[to] interface face, context and technology on the school. Prosperity, of course, reduced crime rates, improved education outcomes and an interface where the skills base of the region is augmented.

Concept = ASKs of pre-Budget presentation <http://ow.ly/o7EiD>  
Strategy = House pilot at MAH-ICDI <http://ow.ly/o7C4t>

[The matrix offsets Freeland's views] , offsetting against my submission to the Drummond commission, which said schools anchor neighbourhoods—that's literacy— attract talent—that's parents—[to] interface face, context and technology on the school. Prosperity, of course, reduced crime rates, improved education outcomes and an interface where the skills base of the region is augmented.

Freeland -- "Path to Prosperity (2013):

- Public Education
- Entrepreneurialism
- Business Success which aligns with public good

Soplet -- submission to Drummond Commission (2012):

- Schools anchor neighbourhoods
- Attract talent
- Build Prosperity

**2013 Concept to MMAH: YOUTH ACTION PLAN**

ties to MEDE: **\*INVESTMENT READY\*** sites.

**2014** <http://www.YEPeducation.com>  
**ONTARIO IMMIGRATION STRATEGY**

We want to place the pilot for an uptake of targeted Parents Reaching Out Grants at the Interministry Community Development Initiative. As we can see, there is no attachment to education in this economic development interministerial committee.

- Interministry Community Development Initiative (ICDI)**  
 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
 Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
 Ministry of Economic Development and Trade  
 Ministry of Tourism and Culture  
 Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry

This is the big picture. We are now sitting at year 7 in a 10-year timeline.

This bottom right-hand corner of the document which you have received is the bid to pilot Parents Reaching Out Grants targeted and tied to Investment Ready sites.

**InfoSheet**

*For More Information:*



Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
416-585-7041

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
1-888-588-4111

Ministry of Economic Development and Trade  
1-866-668-4249

Ministry of Tourism and Culture  
416-325-5306

Ministry of Northern Development Mines and Forestry  
1-807-475-1773

**Interministry Community Development Initiative (ICDI)**



**Introduction**

Ontario's communities are essential to the province's overall economic health. They are the points of first contact for potential investors, and key players in helping to support and expand local businesses. In addition, local decision-makers, including municipal leaders, determine their community's quality of place, quality of life and economic strategies.

**Interministry Community Development Initiative**

The Interministry Community Development Initiative (ICDI) was born of the efforts of Ontario ministries to assist communities with their economic development challenges. The ICDI:

- brings together representatives from a number of provincial ministries;
- provides timely and coordinated provincial expertise;
- uses existing information and resources more efficiently, and
- provides assistance with tools, information, and provincial programs with a view to promoting strategic, regional approaches to economic development.

Slide 23 <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Asset9292.aspx?method=1>



Slide 24 Full-Size graphic on-line <http://ow.ly/t6raQ>

**ASKs of today's presentation:**

Pilot a 2014 Economic Development strategy Concept for Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing:

Target supported uptake of Parent Reaching Out grants:

deliver \*Youth Action Plan\* in identified \*Investment Ready\* sites.



© 2014 Catherine Soplek @nabrHUBS  
 \*Future of Public Education\* Strategy, inspired by Vimy

Slide 25 Graphic inset on-line <http://ow.ly/t2dm0>  
 Details, 3panels of inset <http://ow.ly/tcgyd>  
 Refer to Appendix I for Feasibility Study Concept

## ASKs of today's presentation:

- Mainstay and augment availability of Ministry of Education – Parent Reaching Out grants.
- Pilot a 2014 Economic Development strategy Concept for Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing:  
Target supported uptake of Parent Reaching Out grants to deliver \*Youth Action Plan\* in identified \*Investment Ready\* sites. <http://ow.ly/o7EiD>
- Pilot a 2014 site replication of [www.YEPeducation](http://www.YEPeducation.com) youth tutor model where Parent Reaching Out grants have already placed.



Thank you.

Catherine Sople  
Member, Peel Poverty Action Group  
Lead Strategist, Building Up Our Neighbourhoods  
[sople@sympatico.ca](mailto:sople@sympatico.ca) @Sople #nabrHUBS



Slide 26

Slide 27

**The Chair (Mr. Kevin Daniel Flynn):** Thank you, Catherine. You left a little bit of time for questions, almost three minutes.

Ted?

**Mr. Ted Arnott:** Good morning, Ms. Sople. Thank you very much for your presentation today. You covered a lot of ground in about 10 minutes and introduced a number of concepts that I don't think the committee has heard to date in the hearings, so it's very helpful in terms of this committee's work, which of course is to listen to the public input that we receive and then make recommendations back to the Minister of Finance before the provincial budget. Thank you very much for that.

There's no question that all members of the House, I think, would want to see greater progress on poverty reduction in the province of Ontario and in Canada, generally, but of course we

differ, in some cases, about the best way to do it. There's no question, as well, that the government has raised expectations that they're going to have a meaningful and effective anti-poverty strategy, and many people have been disappointed with the government's action in that respect.

You mentioned that Parents Reaching Out Grants are a big part of this, and I was interested in one of the slides that was presented to us that indicated that \$21 million has been spent on these grants since 2006, I believe. So that would be approximately \$3 million a year that the government has allocated; is that correct?

**Ms. Catherine Sople:** It's not so much about an allocation as it is an increasing uptake. For example, in 2010-11, when I was attached to a \$22,000 Parents Reaching Out Grants cluster—so an \$18,000 regional grant and four independent schools—that

represented about 20% of what the Peel District School Board accessed in that year. For 2012-13, they accessed in the neighbourhood of about \$145,000. The opportunity of the grants is great; the difficulty is that they are not equitably accessed. So 2012-13 was the first year in which each of 72 public district school boards obtained at least one grant. It took until ~~2012-13~~ [2013-14] for all of the identified priority schools to access the grants.

Once the schools get the grants, they tend to get them again. We teach people to fish.

**Mr. Ted Arnott:** So the school boards make applications, I assume; it's not a direct grant—

**Ms. Catherine Soplet:** No, no. It's the parents and the schools with the councils. It's not the school boards.

**Mr. Ted Arnott:** But the money is funded directly to the schools around the school board? It would have to go through the school board, would it not?

**Ms. Catherine Soplet:** The money flows to the school boards. It's provided to the individual schools, and they account for it rigorously.

**Mr. Ted Arnott:** Yes, I was going to ask that question. How are the programs monitored for effectiveness?

**Ms. Catherine Soplet:** Every grant has to report back to the Ministry of Education, and the metrics that are used are those for school success, and further evidence is applied when the EQAO and other standardized testing happens.

**Mr. Ted Arnott:** Okay. Thank you very much.

**Ms. Catherine Soplet:** You're welcome.

**The Chair (Mr. Kevin Daniel Flynn):** Very good. Thank you, Catherine. Thank you very much for presenting today.

**Ms. Catherine Soplet:** Thank you.

## APPENDIX I

### Feasibility Study Concept

Pilot Ministry of Education - Parents Reaching Out grants  
at Youth Action Plan Secretariat:

Parents Reaching Out grants boost literacy.  
Literacy lowers crime rates.

Feasibility Study Concept was provided in July 2013 to Dr. Alvin Curling, Strategic Adviser to the Minister of Children and Youth Services on the implementation of the \*Youth Action Plan\*, and to stakeholders affiliate to \*Youth Action Plan\*.

Feasibility Study Concept was provided August-October 2013 to multiple consultations held for Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy and to the Project Director, Poverty Reduction Strategy Team housed at Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

Feasibility Study Concept was provided stakeholders affiliate to \*Investment Ready\* announcement made August 2013 by Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment at the annual conference of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.



YOUTH ACTION PLAN was announced August 2012 jointly by Ministry of Children and Youth Services and Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. It conjoined the 2008 Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy and the 2008 Review of Roots of Youth Violence to strengthen and target the Ontario government response to a spike in youth gun violence.

- Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy has eight indicators, three of which are education based. Of these two -- literacy outcomes and student success measured by high school graduation rates -- are seen to improve where Ministry of Education - Parent Reaching Out grants place.
- Review of Roots into Youth Violence recommendations were set forth in March 2012 Crime Prevention Ontario: A Framework for Action and codified, in part, in June 2012 *Accepting Schools Act*.

### YOUTH ACTION PLAN, AUGUST 2012

#### POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY

Literacy grows the top line, and restores fiscal balance.

- Literacy improves economic prospects and participation in society,
  - Literacy grows both the market and the tax base.
- Literacy improves government services delivery, and thereby lowers costs,
  - Literacy is a social determinant of health (Health Council of Canada)
  - Where literacy improves, so do public health outcomes. In turn, longer term health care costs reduce.

Growing the top line at the same time as costs reduce will restore fiscal balance.

1. Parent grants in schools reduce poverty and build prosperity by boosting literacy and school climate where they place. The effect is seen especially in low-income and high-settlement neighbourhoods such as those identified in Toronto.

**Catherine Soplet**  
By 2010-11, 300,000 THW Model Schools awarded first time parent PRO grants. Literacy scores shot up in 13 high schools. <http://bit.ly/1m02Q8N>

2. Education metrics make up 30% of indicators of Poverty Reduction Strategy.

#### REPORT OF REVIEW OF ROOTS OF YOUTH VIOLENCE

Report of the Review of Roots of Youth Violence is well-referenced in the [March 2012 Crime Prevention Ontario: A Framework for Action](#) released by Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

Parent grants deliver Protective Factors outlined in the Framework.

Crime Prevention in Ontario: A Framework for Action

"Partnerships are an integral part of effective crime prevention, given the wide-ranging nature of the causes of crime and the skills and responsibilities required to address them. This includes partnerships working across ministries and between authorities, community organizations, non-governmental organizations, the business sector and private citizens."  
- Institute for the Prevention of Crime (2008)

Protective Factors			
Individual	Family/Peers	Community	Society
Personal coping strategies	Adequate parental supervision	Housing in close proximity to services	Low social tolerance of violence
Strong attachment to adult	Parent(s) engaged in child's life	Cohesive communities	High awareness of the determinants of well-being
Positive school experience	Positive peer influences	Recreational facilities for youth	
Self-esteem			
Self-efficacy			
Sense of responsibility			

Slide, from p8 of Dec 12'12 deputation to City of Mississauga.

**PROBLEM:**

Jurisdictional silos interfere w/Municipal aim for vibrant communities using principles of Social Economic Development laid out in Federation of Canadian Municipalities policy paper.

Education is identified as a key desirable feature for vibrant, thriving communities by Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in its Policy Paper: Social-Economic Development. The document was reviewed June 1'13 at FCM's annual conference.

[http://www.fcm.ca/Documents/corporate-resources/policy-statements/Social Economic Development Policy Statement EN.pdf](http://www.fcm.ca/Documents/corporate-resources/policy-statements/Social_Economic_Development_Policy_Statement_EN.pdf)

**OPPORTUNITY:**

In Ontario, the provincial Youth Action Plan initiative offers a vehicle for top-down equitable framework and bottom-up localized school-based solutions by Ministry of Education with local partners.

- On the micro level, the tool is PRO grants.
  - PRO grants can scale up into school clusters, and into regional PRO grant projects.

**Catherine Soplet**  
 Advocate, the idea for "Citizen Apprenticeship"  
 Building Up Our Neighbourhoods  
[soplet@sympatico.ca](mailto:soplet@sympatico.ca)

Page 1 of 3

- PRO grants deliver improved literacy, school climate and student outcomes.
- PRO grants deliver Protective Factors, drawn from Review into Roots of Youth Violence and diagrammed [on P#9](#) of March 2012 Crime Prevention Framework

**BASIS OF CONCEPT FOR PRO GRANTS AT YOUTH ACTION PLAN SECRETARIAT**

**Literacy lowers crime rates, and thereby reduces policing and victim costs.**

**Parent PRO grants sites show improved literacy and student success outcomes.**

- Parent Reaching Out (PRO) grants are identified by Peel District School Board as promising practice
  - to deliver against indicators of Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy and
  - to deliver elements of the Youth Action Plan

Parent PRO grants are identified by Ministry of Children and Youth Services in Stepping UP: Strategic Framework to improve Youth Outcomes as a tool by which to deliver Priority Outcomes indicators.

2011-12 grants baseline was reset following Ministry of Education 5-year review of PRO grant data.

2012-13 grants approvals were up nearly 25% for sites and \$\$'s. First-time sites can mapped against

August 2013 Ministry of Education annual results to check for year-over-year improvements.

2013-14 grants applications were trending increased numbers, according to a Ministry source.

- This cohort provides a control for uptake in fall 2013 by first-time locations, using supports drawn from promising practices identified in TDSB Model Schools experience, and elsewhere. Cross referencing education outcomes against community safety metrics will affirm the premise: Literacy lowers crime rates.

<b>Basis of Concept for Youth Action Plan Secretariat: PRO grants boost literacy, literacy lowers crime rates</b>				
PASSIVE UPTAKE				TARGETED UPTAKE
FORMATIVE PERIOD 2005-06 to 2010-11	BASE YEAR 2011-12	SECOND YEAR 2012-13	THIRD YEAR 2013-14	THIRD YEAR - OPTION SUPPORTED COHORT
Parent Reaching Out grant outcomes reviewed.  Literacy and school success improve where grants place, especially in schools serving high-settlement and income-gapped families. Make progress against <b>Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy</b> .	Parameters of and approvals for parent PRO grants are refined in alignment with Ministry of Education initiatives.  A slight increase in grant sites and \$\$'s are approved over 2010-11 numbers.	Ministry of Education approves nearly 25% more grants for sites and \$\$'s over 2011-12.  This means there is first-time uptake is some locations. 2012-13 is the first year where each of 72 district school boards have accessed at least one grant.	Approval rates will be known August 2014.  Despite unsettled 2012-13 school landscape, a source from Ministry of Education passed comment before deadline that 2013-2014 applications were received at rates comparable to 2012-13.	2013-14, second cohort concept:  Approach vulnerable clusters of schools not registered by May 21 deadline. Invite a supported uptake of grants applications in fall 2013. Grants will deploy in spring 2014, and so will align with the routine rollout of the regular stream of granted projects.
In 2010-11, the routine October application date was moved from October to June, on a May 2010 announcement.	Site locations were drawn to attention of MCSCS, Peel Regional Police, Safe City Mississauga and Brampton Safe City. First time locations mapped against respective crime prevention lenses can enrich detail of annual reports to municipalities/region		Once placed, PRO grants tend to repeat. Flag and confirm the trend.	2013-14 offers a time sensitive, one-time spontaneously occurring environment for observation.



Parent grants are a way to bring the face and technology and contextual assets of the community onto the school landscape in an interactive setting with educators. Parent grants are parametered by Ministry of Education policies which promote accessibility, equity, diversity and inclusion.

Parent grants offer site-relevant and incubator scale to the "Third Sector Role" in 21st Century public education, envisioned by Dr. Ben Levin, Canada Research Chair at Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in recent papers on *Smarter School Reform*. During the conceptualization and collaboration phase to create Parent Reaching Out grants after 2003, Dr. Levin was Deputy Minister of Education.

## Third Sector Role

- Community organizations and leaders have a vital role
- Programs of different kinds
  - Mentoring, learning, supplementing
- 'Critical friends' to education
  - Supporters and critics
- Leverage principle – creating disproportionate change
  - Ontario PRO grants

[ow.ly/1UI1J](http://ow.ly/1UI1J)

"A huge amount of human effort and goodwill, leading to many more successful students, can be generated by a small amount of investment, a few million dollars in a system that spends billions each year, if the money is carefully allotted to support lasting partnerships. Ontario generates each year a significant amount of activity for parent engagement by giving parent councils grants of \$1,000 or less."

Ben Levin, Canada Research Chair-OISE  
June 2013, Literary Review of Canada  
*Smarter School Reform*



Catherine Soplet  
Advocate, the idea for "Citizen Apprenticeship"  
Building Up Our Neighbourhoods  
soplet@sympatico.ca



# Building up our Neighbourhoods

Connecting Residents to Literacy and Health 2007-2017

**2007-2012 PARENT REACHING OUT grants**  
**ONTARIO POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY**  
Boost: Literacy + Student Success ==> OSSD grads



**2012 Submission to DRUMMOND COMMISSION:**  
Literacy grows the top line and restores fiscal balance.

2007 PROgrant 2008  
Mississauga Summit 2007  
Begin with the end in mind

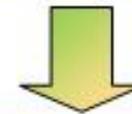
Infrastructure Region

Culture+Commerce Municipality

Equity Public Schools

Deliver \*EMERGING STRONGER\*

- Keep parent PROgrants
- Attract \*Talent\* w/ amenities
  - Schools anchor #nabrHUBS
  - Land Use Planning + Transit
- Pilot youth tutor sites



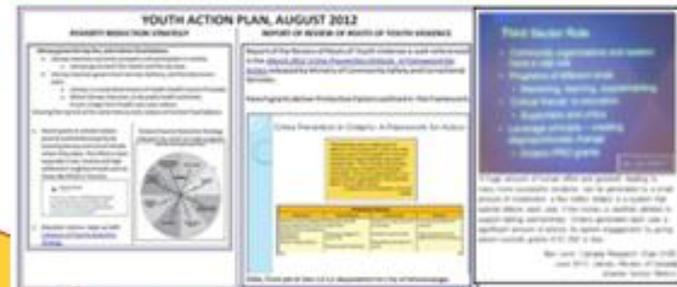
Canada the Village ...

Canada the Nation



Neighbourhoods  
Diverse+Inclusive

**2013 Concept to MMAH: YOUTH ACTION PLAN**  
ties to MEDTE: \*INVESTMENT READY\* sites.



**Neighbourhoods - where people and governments:**

- Locate
- Connect
- Partner

**2017**

**Citizen Apprenticeship**  
Youth Peer Tutor Program  
**ONTARIO IMMIGRATION**

<http://www.YEPeducation.com>  
**ONTARIO IMMIGRATION STRATEGY**

**2014**

Scoping policy trends+research  
funds to propagate sites, get data

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"Future of Public Education" Strategy, inspired by Vimy