

**Ministry of Education**

Deputy Minister

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Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Sous-ministre

Édifice Mowat  
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Toronto ON M7A 1L2



**Date:** October 2, 2017

**Memorandum to:** Directors of Education

**From:** Bruce Rodrigues  
Deputy Minister

**Subject** Safe Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Centres

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Dear colleagues:

As you may be aware, this government has taken multiple steps to further protect children from being exposed to lead in the drinking water of schools and child care centres.

These steps include the upcoming release of expanded drinking water data on the government's Open Data Catalogue and recent amendments to [Ontario Regulation 243/07: Schools, Private Schools and Child Care Centres](#), effective July 1, 2017, to update lead sampling, corrective action and flushing requirements. As you are aware, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) has a notification process in place with the associated local Medical Officer of Health should there be a lead exceedance through water sampling in a child care centre or school. I know I can count on the education sector to follow the requirements set out in this regulation.

As part of our ongoing commitment to transparency, the Ministry of Education expects parents and guardians are to be made aware in a timely manner of all situations where a lead exceedance has been detected in the drinking water of a school or child care centre, and how the exceedance will be addressed. Schools and child care centres that are co-located are encouraged to work together to notify all affected families. We encourage you to share resources developed by MOECC with parents and the broader school community. MOECC has also shared a fact sheet with school boards and child care centres, which has been attached to this email for your reference.

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Should you or your staff have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Drinking Water Registration Help Desk's toll-free line at 866-793-2588, or email [drinking.water@ontario.ca](mailto:drinking.water@ontario.ca).

Thank you for your collaboration on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Rodrigues". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Bruce Rodrigues  
Deputy Minister