

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Minister of Education

Organization applauds government for appointing a Minister with experience in early childhood and children and youth mental health

TORONTO (October 20, 2011) – People for Education welcomed Laurel Broten as the new Minister of Education today.

“We are pleased that education will have a Minister who already knows so much about early childhood education and who has experience working in cooperation with other ministries on things like mental health for children and youth,” says Annie Kidder, Executive Director of the organization. “There will be many challenges over the next four years, and we are sure that Ms. Broten is up to the job.”

People for Education made a number of [recommendations in its 2011 Annual Report on Ontario's Publicly Funded Schools](#) and the organization looks forward to meeting with the new minister to discuss them.

Among the top issues for the next four years:

- re-thinking the province's current narrow focus on standardized test scores in two subjects;
- implementing the recommendations from the Premier's Early Learning Advisor for things like Child and Family Centres and extended day programs in all communities;
- re-examining the province's draft fundraising guidelines to ensure the province doesn't increase the gaps between have- and have-not schools;
- working with principals to both ensure that they have the staff support they need and that their jobs aren't overwhelmed by paperwork;
- addressing the gaps in special education funding and policy (currently 67 of the province's 72 boards spend more on special education than they receive from the province); and
- working with the child care sector to ensure that changes in education don't have a negative impact on child care.

On November 5th, at [People for Education's 15th Annual Conference](#), two former Ministers of Education (Janet Ecker and Gerard Kennedy) will face-off with journalist Jennifer Lewington to discuss “What's next for education in Ontario?” The conference will focus on a range of topics that will help move the “education agenda” forward.

-- 30 --

For more information please contact:

People for Education 416-534-0100
Annie Kidder cell 416-508-1484