



Media Alert

For immediate release, November 2, 2011

LAUREL BROTEN TO MAKE FIRST SPEECH AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION AT PEOPLE FOR EDUCATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

What: Topics from specialty schools to special education will be discussed and debated at [People for Education's 15th Annual Conference](#) at York University on Saturday.

The big questions:

- Finnish kids spend more hours per week on the arts than on math – should we be doing that in Ontario? **Pasi Sahlberg**, Finnish education guru/author/policy advisor offers advice to Ontario.
- Edmonton has an array of specialty schools – but is it dividing kids along class lines? Journalist **Rick Salutin** and Alberta educator **Jim Gibbons** debate the pros and cons.
- Ontario's "education Premier" has a minority government. What does that mean for education? Conservative **Janet Ecker**, Liberal **Gerard Kennedy**, and New Democrat **Michael Polanyi** face-off with **Jennifer Lewington**.
- In this high tech world, do we really need teachers? And if we do, what makes a great teacher and how should we be choosing and training them? Former Deputy Minister of Education Dr. **Ben Levin**, current TDSB teacher **Lucy Nathan**, American education author **Dr. Dennis Shirley**, and New Brunswick tech advocate **Tim Workman** talk it out in a panel live-streamed on TVO.
- Parents fundraise millions of dollars for their schools. If it was banned, what would we lose and what would we gain? Hear opposing points of view from the Social Planning Council and the head of a Toronto education foundation.
- Why is it so hard for kids to make the transition to high school? Experts from **Sick Kids**, **Brock**, **OISE**, and the **Ottawa Catholic Board** talk research and solutions.
- What do trustees do and why do we need them?

The hands-on session:

- Parents will learn to create their own e-newsletters, navigate the special education system, enhance their school councils, work with their Parent Involvement Committees and more.

Where: [Winter's College](#), York University (Keele Street to York Boulevard, to Vanier Parking Lot). [map](#) (Winter's College is Building 53)

When: Saturday, November 5th
8:45 a.m.

Who: Parents, trustees, educators and [experts](#) from **Ottawa, Helsinki, Thunder Bay, Windsor, Edmonton, Toronto, Boston, Morrisburg, St. John, Hamilton, London, Elk Lake** and everywhere in between.

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For more information:

Go to [the conference website](#)

Call People for Education at 416-534-0100

or Annie Kidder at 416-508-1484