



7 - 575 Thornton Road North, Oshawa, ON L1J 8L5
deafaccessdurham@gmail.com

Catherine Luetke
Representative for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Minister's Advisory Committee on Special Education

[Sent via e-mail to catherine.luetke@dpcdsb.org]

November 13, 2013

Dear Ms. Leutke,

Re: Quality of Education for Deaf Students in Mainstreamed Schools

We would like to thank you for replying to our letter that was addressed to the Honourable Jane Sandals, Minister of Education.

In your email dated July 13, you mentioned that the Drafted Guidelines for Programs and Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is currently on hold as there will be another re-evaluation as there needs to be some improvements in certain areas that stakeholders working with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing are dissatisfied with.

We have a few questions we would like to ask you regarding the Guidelines:

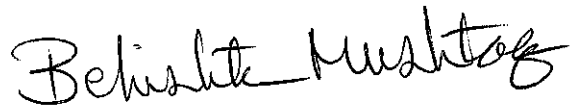
- Do you have a general idea when the Guidelines will be released? Will the public have access to the Guidelines once it is published and released? Will we be able to view the contents of the Guidelines?
- Has there been, in any way, any consultation with members of the culturally Deaf community in regard to the Guidelines?
- You stated that educational interpreting one of the areas where it has been determined that the Guidelines need improvement on. If so, has the Ontario Association of Sign Language Interpreters been consulted with?

By postponing the release of the Guidelines, this is a good example why we are concerned about the lack of clear directives or leadership in monitoring the education of Deaf children in the Province of Ontario, especially in the mainstreamed educational system. The ambiguity surrounding Deaf education in general has been an ongoing issue over the past twenty years.

We would also like to ask you about your role on the Minister's Advisory Committee on Special Education. What are your duties and responsibilities in serving on this committee? Do you have any direct involvement in the development of the Guidelines?

We look forward to hearing from you.

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Behishta Mushtaq". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Behishta" and the last name "Mushtaq" clearly distinguishable.

Behishta Mushtaq, Chair

cc: Durham Deaf Accessibility Committee – Don Kinsley, Veronica Bickle, Gordon Ryall, Beverley Dooley, Kim Reid, Mirek Swiecicki, Bryan Meany and Robert Lang.

cc: Maggie Doherty-Gilbert, Regional Director, The Canadian Hearing Society,
Peterborough, York, Durham and City of Kawartha Lakes Regions