

[Date]

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Local Immigration Partnerships are collaborative community partnerships established across Ontario and designed to strengthen local and regional communities in serving and supporting immigrants to integrate into their communities. As one of thirty-five such partnerships across the province, our Immigration Strategy has identified the need for teachers to have a solid foundation for diversity-focused and inclusive classroom practice.

Pre-service teacher education is the optimal period for developing the principles, attitudes and skills for such a foundation. With the expansion of teacher education programs, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has the opportunity to fundamentally improve the quality of the teaching profession across the province.

The London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership (LMLIP) and the Peterborough Partnership Council on Immigrant Integration (PPCII) collaborated to produce the attached position paper, ***Ontario Pre-service Teacher Education: The Case for Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Training***. In it they strongly call upon the Ministry to mandate the completion of at least one course in equity, inclusion and diversity studies to be a requirement for all pre-service teachers prior to graduation. Additionally, they call upon the Ministry to ensure that the principles, attitudes and skills required to provide successful equitable and inclusive education be embedded throughout the curricula of all teacher education courses and programs in Ontario.

We, the Education Sector members of the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership, strongly endorse the position taken in this paper, and call upon the Ministry to take timely action on the presented recommendations.

Sincerely,

[names, including organizational affiliation and signatures]