

#14 MPP BIRTH CERTIFICATE UPDATE

Date: 05/27/04



Minister's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to inform you that this week we have broken the 18-week barrier for processing regular birth certificate applications. Staff are now processing an average of more than 1,200 certificates per day, reducing the processing time to approximately 17 weeks. We look forward to more measurable results in the weeks ahead.

I know many of your constituents have expressed concern about the need for a birth certificate to register their child for kindergarten. Recently, the Deputy Minister of Education, Suzanne Herbert, sent a memo to all Directors of Education, reminding them that although parents or guardians must provide proof that the child is of school age, that proof does not necessarily require that they provide a birth certificate.

I would like to thank the school boards for their cooperation and for remaining flexible regarding the rules for registration.

In the meantime, we will continue to work with our partners and those organizations that rely on birth certificates to minimize the impact of current processing times on their service delivery.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Watson, M.P.P.
Minister of Consumer and Business Services

Operational Improvements

- 6,428 certificates issued over five days for an average of 1286 certificates per day.
- 95 person-days of overtime worked during the weekend of May 15th
- As of May 21st, working on applications received January 23, 2004, a 17 week turnaround time.
- This is the fourth week where processing of regular applications has surpassed expedited and emergency applications.
- Highest number of files completed since January 2004.
- Record production of regular certificates from backlog.
- Hired 23 staff for a total of 196 hired for backlog reduction.

This data is effective to May 21, 2004

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FAQ

Q: What should a parent do if a school board will not register a child without a birth certificate?

A: *The Ontario Student Record (OSR) Guideline 2000* sets out the type of information about a student that a school must collect. That information includes the student's full name and date of birth. The *Guideline* clearly indicates that a birth certificate is not mandatory and that other documents may be presented to demonstrate proof of age.