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Published plans and annual reports 2021-2022: Ministry of Education

Plans for 2021-2022, and results and outcomes of all provincial programs delivered by the Ministry of Education in 2020-2021.

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Ministry overview and purpose

The Ministry of Education is responsible for delivering a high-quality publicly funded education system from kindergarten to grade 12, and for the oversight of the province's child care and early years system. The ministry is committed to ensuring all children and students have the skills and knowledge they need to reach their full potential and achieve lifelong success, and that their parents and families are also supported.

2021-22 strategic plan

Over the past two school years, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the delivery of education in Ontario. The ministry will continue in its efforts to deliver a modern, sustainable, world-class education system that ensures students have the skills and knowledge to succeed in school.

The ministry will continue to work collaboratively with the education, child care and early years sectors, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and local public health units to support planning and guidance that is responsive to the evolving public health environment.

Kindergarten to grade 12

The Ministry of Education provides policy and program direction and financial support to district school boards, school authorities, schools and agencies. Ontario is fostering and sustaining a high-quality education system for all students in the province to prepare them to graduate with the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in school, work and life. This will include a renewed focus on, and supports for, learning recovery and renewal, equity, and student mental health and well-being to support students, staff and the broader community.

Early years and child care programs

The ministry is also committed to a child care and early years system that gives children the support, care, and development they need to sustain a full continuum of learning – from their earliest years and through to their elementary, secondary and post-secondary education.

A strong child care and early years system plays a key role in supporting families and putting the province's youngest learners on a path to lifelong success. Ontario is committed to ensuring children and families have access to a range of healthy, affordable, inclusive, safe, and high-quality early years and child care programs with flexible options that meet parents' needs.

Alignment of programs with the government's priorities

The following chart outlines the key government priorities that the ministry directly supports through its range of services and supports.

Government Priority

Ministry of Education Responsibilities

Making life more affordable

Preparing people for jobs/Preparing students for successful careers

- Child care
- Capital and business support
- Community services I&IT
- Corporate management and services
- Early years programming
- Education equity
- Education labour and finance
- French language teaching, learning and achievement
- Indigenous education and well-being
- Student achievement
- Student support and field services
- Strategic policy and planning

COVID-19 response

The government's top priority remains keeping the people of Ontario healthy and safe. Throughout 2020-21, the Province continued taking action to ensure the delivery of the critical services the people of Ontario needed most, including its publicly funded education system.

Investments and supports

To date, the Ministry of Education has made over \$1.6 billion in resources available to support the safe reopening and operation of schools across Ontario, including \$762 million in federal support provided through the Safe Return to Class Fund.

The Ontario government, in partnership with the federal government, provided \$234.6 million in funding to the early years and child care system for enhanced cleaning costs as well as health and safety requirements to support the reopening of licensed child care and early years programs. The funding support was provided up to March 31, 2021. The ministry also made \$66 million available for reinvestment

between January and March 2021 to support increased costs of operating child care and EarlyON child and family centres during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Building on the successes and lessons learned from the Support for Families program implemented in 2019-20, the ministry launched Support for Learners on November 30, 2020. The Support for Learners program helped families with additional costs during the 2020-21 school year due to COVID-19, and provided \$200 for each child/youth up to grade 12, and \$250 for each child/youth up to age 21 with special needs.

2021 Budget

As part of the *2021 Budget, Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy*, the Ontario government announced it would be providing parents with \$980 million in direct support as part of the Ontario COVID-19 Child Benefit. Under this new round of funding, payments will be doubled to \$400 for each child/youth up to grade 12 and \$500 for each child/youth up to age 21 with special needs to help offset additional learning costs.

Investing in online and remote learning

Connectivity is critical for students and teachers. This is why Ontario is investing \$40 million in new funding over two years to improve online and remote learning technology. This investment will help improve present and future connectivity within school buildings and provide innovative tools and resources to help ensure that students and teachers can participate in remote and online learning in response to COVID-19.

Ontario public school COVID-19 response timeline and supports

Closure of schools

On March 12, 2020, the Ontario government announced the closure of schools across Ontario to mitigate against the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 31, 2020, Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Education Stephen Lecce announced, based on the advice of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, an extension of school and child care centre closures to protect the health and safety of students and staff. To help limit community transmission of the virus, schools remained closed for the duration of the school year, with students participating in remote learning up until the end of the 2019-20 school year.

Continuity of learning

While protecting Ontario's students and children remained paramount, the ministry also took steps to ensure the continuity of learning by making home and remote learning more accessible across the province.

The ministry launched the [Learn At Home](#) website in March 2020 to offer students and parents access to high-quality math and literacy resources in English and French. The site was regularly updated and expanded to include resources in a variety of subject areas for students in kindergarten to grade 12 and their families.

Reopening of schools

On July 30, 2020, the government released the plan for the safe reopening of schools in September 2020. This plan prioritized the health and safety of students and staff and provided school boards with unprecedented resources and flexibility, while accommodating regional differences in trends of key public health indicators. The plan included guidance that all publicly funded elementary schools would reopen across the province with in-class instruction five days a week. Most secondary schools reopened part-time with adapted delivery, and secondary schools with smaller populations reopened with full-time conventional delivery.

Health and safety measures

Reopening guidance

To accompany the safe reopening of schools in September 2020, school boards were provided with the [Guide to Reopening Ontario's Schools](#) and targeted, immediate and evidence-informed investments to support a number of initiatives such as personal protective equipment (PPE), staffing, public health nurses, testing capacity, health and safety training, and supports for student mental health and students with special education needs.

Operational guidance

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to evolve, on August 26, 2020 the government released the [Operational Guidance: COVID-19 Management in Schools](#) document as part of Ontario's plan for students to safely return to the classroom. The document aimed to help schools identify and isolate COVID-19 cases, reduce the potential transmission of the virus in schools, and prevent and minimize outbreaks.

Schools across Ontario reopened in September 2020 for the 2020-21 school year, with enhanced health

and safety measures and supported by provincial and federal investments. The transmission of COVID-19 in schools remained low in the fall.

Return to remote learning

However, in response to the rapidly evolving public health environment across the province and based on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Province announced temporary school closures starting in the first week of January, in order to take proactive and preventative action to protect schools and contribute to stopping the spread of COVID-19.

Return to in-person learning

The Ministry of Education continued to consult with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and schools were gradually permitted to return to in-person learning throughout January and February 2021, depending on the Public Health Unit (PHU) in which they were based. This approach was based on the advice of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, the unanimous recommendation of the Council of Medical Officers of Health, and with the support of local Medical Officers of Health. Elementary and secondary schools in all PHUs were permitted to return to in-person learning on February 16, 2021.

Improved health and safety measures

The ministry remains committed to working with education and health sector partners to improve safety measures in schools to help ensure the safety of students and staff. As part of the February 3, 2021 announcement, the minister echoed the Province's new measures to protect students and staff from COVID-19 in the classroom.

The measures include:

- provincewide access, in consultation with the local PHU, to targeted asymptomatic testing for students and staff
- mandatory masking requirement for students in grades 1 to 3, in addition to previous mandatory masking for students in grades 4 to 12, and masking requirement for grades 1 to 12 outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained
- providing 3.5 million high-quality cloth masks to schools as back-up supply for grade 1 to 12 students
- enhanced screening protocols for secondary students and staff

- guidance discouraging students from congregating before and after school
- temporary certification of eligible teacher candidates who are set to graduate in 2021 to stabilize staffing levels

Please visit [Ontario's website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.

Early years and child care supports

Early years and child care investments

In March 2020 at the onset of the pandemic, all child care settings were mandated to close. During this period, Ontario provided funding to support all child care operators with fixed overhead costs for vacancies, enhanced cleaning, and PPE as they began reopening in the summer months.

Operational guidance and safety requirements

Ontario also supported child care settings by providing operational requirements and guidance to ensure that child care and early years settings adhered to evidence-based health and safety protocols during the reopening process. Approximately 96% of child care settings reopened with enhanced health and safety requirements following the mandated closure.

Emergency child care (ECC)

The Emergency Child Care (ECC) program has been a support program developed and deployed by the Ministry of Education and municipal service management and First Nation partners at different time periods during the COVID-19 pandemic to help mitigate the impact of school closures on parents and children.

The first iteration of the ECC program was implemented early in the pandemic from mid-March to the end of June 2020 to support eligible healthcare and other frontline workers. This program came to an end on June 26, 2020 as child care centres were permitted to reopen under strict health and safety measures. At its peak, over 3,000 children per day were served during the first iteration of ECC.

The Ministry of Education launched the second iteration of ECC in response to the second wave of the pandemic in January 2021 during the period where elementary schools were closed for in-person learning. The ministry worked with municipalities and First Nation communities to deliver its targeted ECC program

to provide frontline workers with access to safe and high-quality child care for their school-aged children, at no cost. The program was in place for a six-week period through to February 16, 2021. At its peak, over 5,000 children of front-line workers were served per day.

Improved health and safety measures

Consistent with enhanced measures supporting a return to in-person learning in schools, the ministry also announced additional enhanced health and safety measures for child care and early years settings. These include:

- mandatory masking requirements for children grade 1 and up while in a child care setting and outdoors where two metres distance cannot be maintained
- encouraging masking for children younger than grade 1 and older than two years of age
- the requirement to confirm that daily self-screening has been done for all child care staff, visitors and placement students prior to entering a child care setting
- requiring that updated training be offered such that all child care staff/providers receive training on current health and safety measures in place according to the ministry's operational guidance, as well as those put in place by the local public health unit
- new provincial direction that child care staff/providers and children with any new or worsening symptom of COVID-19 (as indicated in the provincial school and child care online screening tool) must stay home, even those with only one symptom; and
- requiring that all asymptomatic household members of symptomatic individuals self-isolate until the symptomatic household member receives a negative COVID-19 test result, or receives an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional

The Ministry of Education continuously worked with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health to monitor and enhance health and safety practices in Ontario's child care settings.

Ministry financial information

The following chart depicts the ministry's investment in 2021-22 to provide Ontario students with an excellent and accountable elementary/secondary education, so their futures and that of the province will be characterized by continued prosperity, stability and growth.

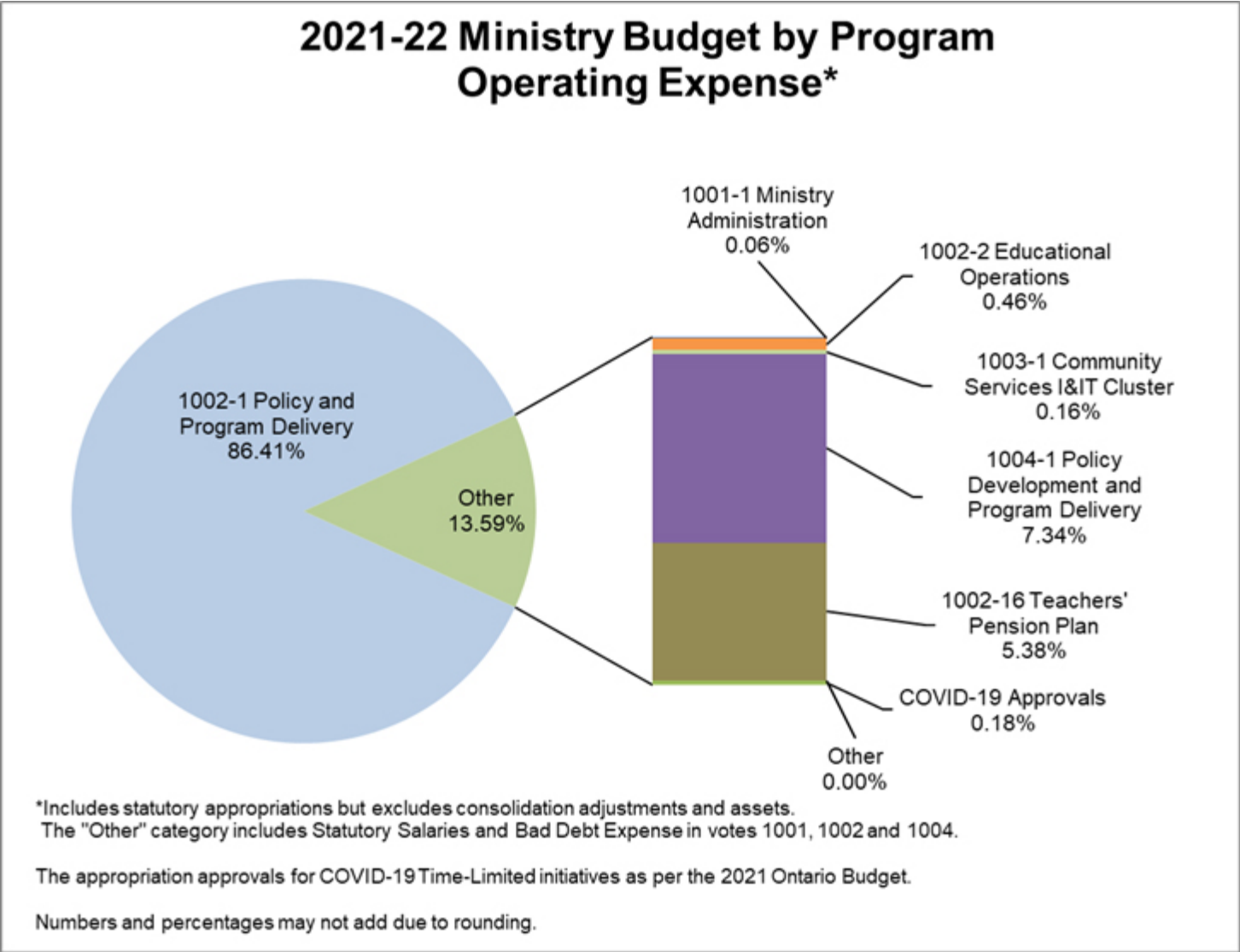


Chart 1: 2021-22 Ministry Budget by Program - Operating Expense ^[1]

1001-1 Ministry Administration	0.06%
1002-1 Policy and Program Delivery	86.41%
1002-2 Educational Operations	0.46%
1003-1 Community Services I&IT	0.16%

Cluster \$49,558,700

1004-1 Policy Development and Program Delivery \$2,222,896,400

7.34%

1002-16 Teachers' Pension Plan \$1,630,877,300

5.38%

Other \$67,014

0.0%

COVID-19 Approvals \$56,000,000

0.18%

Note: Numbers and percentages may not appear to add due to rounding.

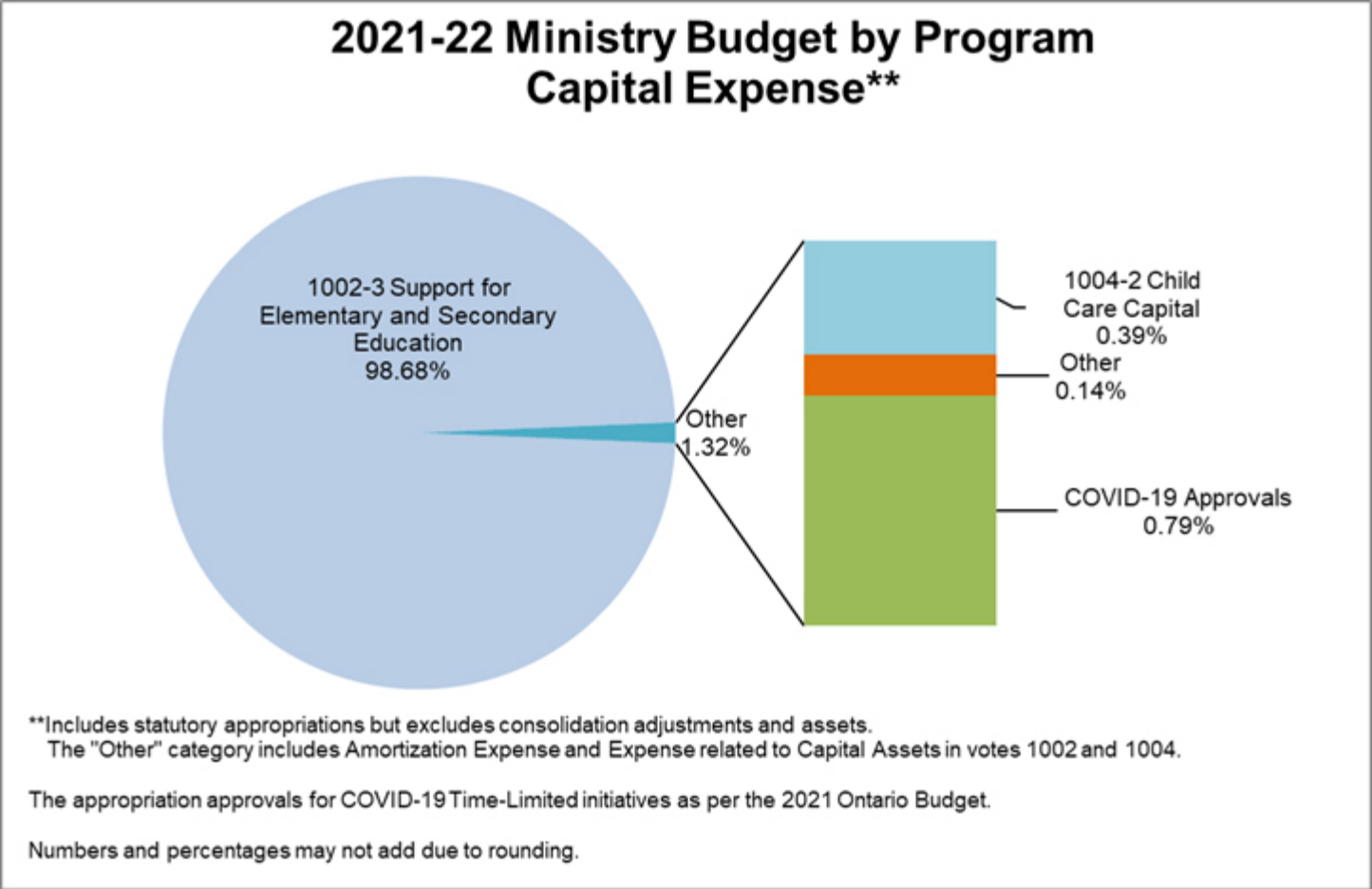
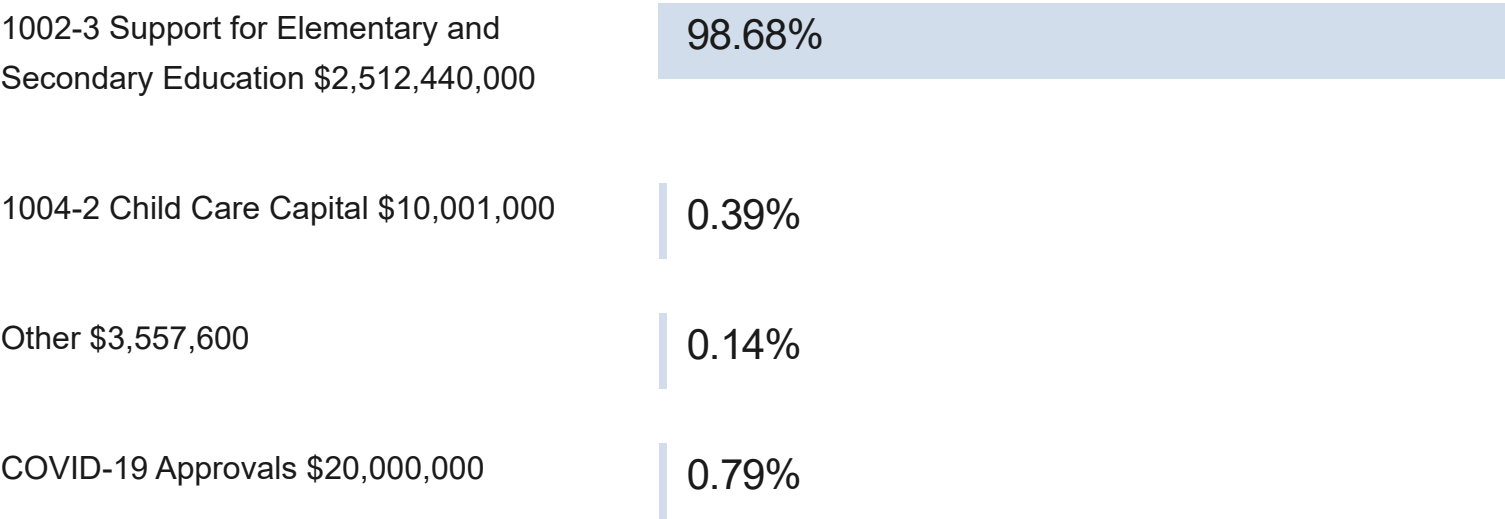


Chart 2: 2021-22 Ministry Budget by Program - Capital Expense [\[2\]](#)



Note: Numbers and percentages may not appear to add due to rounding.

Ministry planned expenditures 2021-22 (\$M)	
Item	Amount
COVID-19 Approvals [3]	76.0
Other Operating	30,244.9
Other Capital	2,526.0
TOTAL [4]	32,846.9

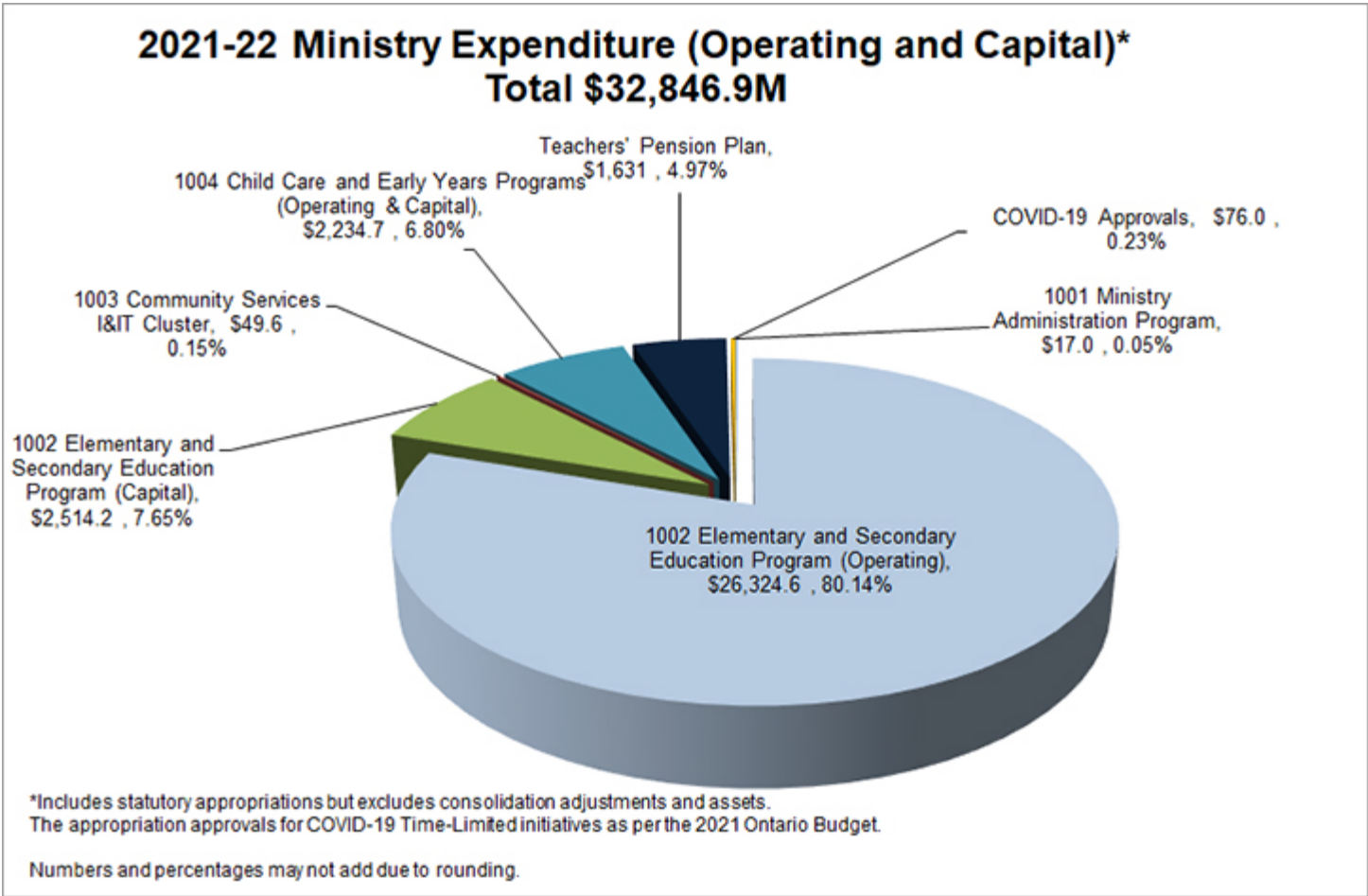
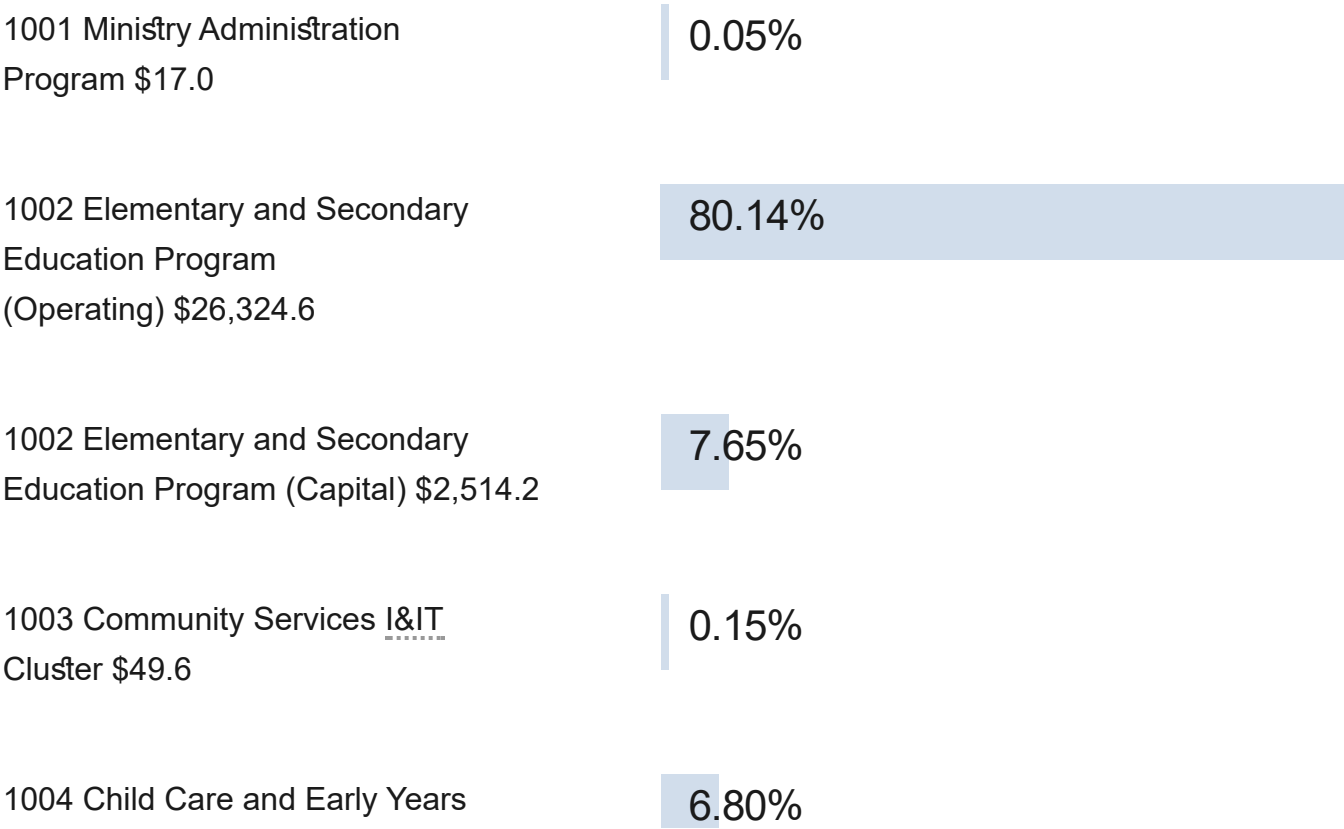
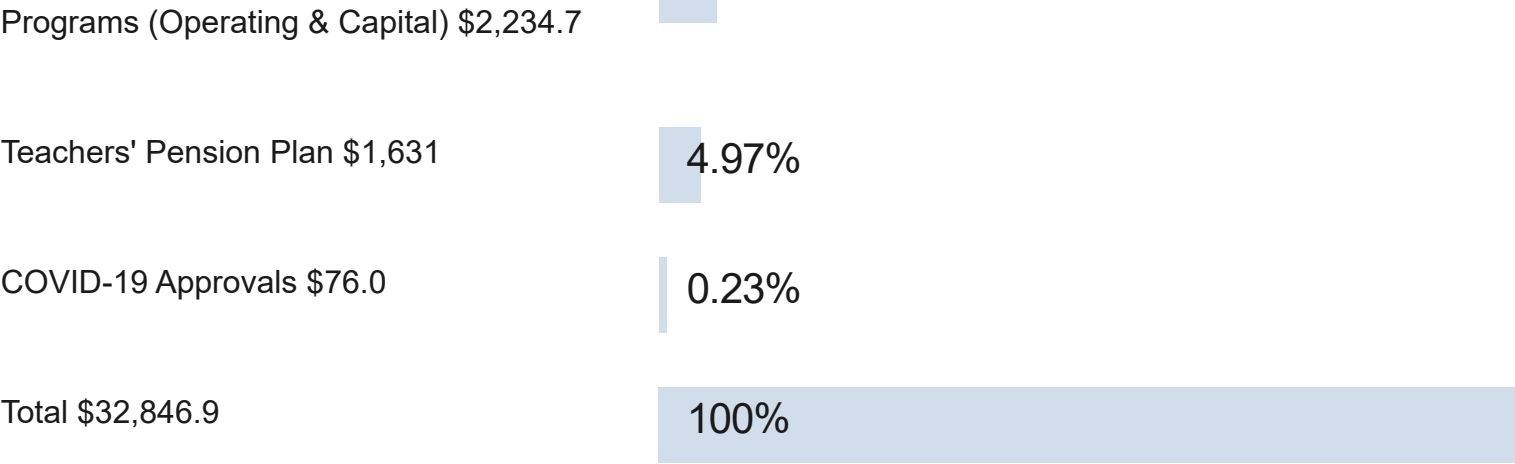


Chart 3: 2021-22 Ministry Expenditure - Operating and Capital [\[5\]](#)





Note: Numbers and percentages may not appear to add due to rounding.

Total operating and capital summary by vote					
Votes/Programs	Estimates 2021-22 \$	Change from Estimates 2020-21 \$	%	Estimates 2020-21 [6] \$	Interim Actuals 2020-21 [6] \$
Operating expense					
Ministry Administration Program	16,896,900	(500,700)	(2.9)	17,397,600	21,931,100
Elementary and Secondary Education Program	26,325,639,800	(182,474,000)	(0.7)	26,508,113,800	28,386,086,000
Community Services Information and Information Technology Cluster	49,558,700	368,200	0.7	49,190,500	52,432,400
Child Care and Early Years Programs	2,277,896,400	9,393,900	0.4	2,268,502,500	2,416,793,100

Total Operating Expense to be Voted	28,669,991,800	(173,212,600)	(0.6)	28,843,204,400	30,877,242,600
Statutory Appropriations	1,630,944,314	10,142,300	0.6	1,620,802,014	1,607,875,014
Ministry Total Operating Expense	30,300,936,114	(163,070,300)	(0.5)	30,464,006,414	32,485,117,614
Consolidation Adjustment - Office des télécommunications éducatives de langue française de l'Ontario (TFO)	2,217,600	(651,000)	(22.7)	2,868,600	8,534,900
Consolidation Adjustment - Education Quality and Accountability Office	1,011,300	(3,525,600)	(77.7)	4,536,900	(11,126,200)
Consolidation Adjustment - Ontario Educational Communications Authority (TVO)	11,644,500	(3,136,000)	(21.2)	14,780,500	11,179,500
Consolidation Adjustment - School Board Trust Debt Payment Reclassification	(65,723,500)	n/a	n/a	(65,723,500)	(65,723,500)
Consolidation Adjustment - Schools	1,129,433,100	624,414,600	123.6	505,018,500	(151,585,900)
Consolidation Adjustment -	(25,570,200)	904,800	n/a	(26,475,000)	(25,570,200)

Colleges					
Consolidation Adjustment - Hospitals	(7,639,900)	82,500	n/a	(7,722,400)	(7,639,900)
Consolidation Adjustment - General Real Estate Portfolio	(4,827,700)	(6,164,100)	(461.2)	1,336,400	(4,062,600)
Total Including Consolidation & Other Adjustments	31,341,481,314	448,854,900	1.5	30,892,626,414	32,239,123,714

Operating assets					
Ministry Administration Program	1,000	n/a	n/a	1,000	1,000
Elementary and Secondary Education Program	1,000	(1,484,800)	(99.9)	1,485,800	1,485,800
Community Services Information and Information Technology Cluster	1,000	n/a	n/a	1,000	1,000
Total Operating Assets to be Voted	3,000	(1,484,800)	(99.8)	1,487,800	1,487,800
Ministry Total Operating Assets	3,000	(1,484,800)	(99.8)	1,487,800	1,487,800

Capital expense					
Elementary and	2,532,441,000	980,443,100	63.2	1,551,997,900	1,494,410,600

Secondary Education Program					
Child Care and Early Years Programs	10,002,000	n/a	n/a	10,002,000	1,000
Total Capital Expense to be Voted	2,542,443,000	980,443,100	62.8	1,561,999,900	1,494,411,600
Statutory Appropriations	3,555,600	586,700	19.8	2,968,900	2,553,400
Ministry Total Capital Expense	2,545,998,600	981,029,800	62.7	1,564,968,800	1,496,965,000
Consolidation Adjustment - Office des télécommunications éducatives de langue française de l'Ontario (TFO)	1,072,600	23,600	2.2	1,049,000	995,000
Consolidation Adjustment - Ontario Educational Communications Authority (TVO)	1,995,000	(356,400)	(15.2)	2,351,400	2,295,200
Consolidation Adjustment - Education Quality and Accountability Office	323,400	21,100	7.0	302,300	302,300
Consolidation Adjustment - Schools	(389,537,400)	(299,573,700)	n/a	(89,963,700)	30,996,300
Consolidated	(539,504,200)	(539,504,200)	n/a	n/a	(26,564,800)

Adjustment - Federal - Flowthrough Expense Reversal - Ministry					
Consolidation Adjustment - General Real Estate Portfolio	(8,611,500)	n/a *****	n/a *****	(8,611,500)	(2,000,000)
Total Including Consolidation & Other Adjustments	1,611,736,500	141,640,200	9.6	1,470,096,300	1,502,989,000
Capital assets					
Elementary and Secondary Education Program	5,458,700	3,029,200	124.7	2,429,500	2,836,100
Child Care and Early Years Programs	1,000	n/a *****	n/a *****	1,000	1,000
Total Capital Assets to be Voted	5,459,700	3,029,200	124.6	2,430,500	2,837,100
Ministry Total Capital Assets	5,459,700	3,029,200	124.6	2,430,500	2,837,100
Ministry Total Operating and Capital Including Consolidation and Other Adjustments (not including Assets)	32,953,217,814	590,495,100	1.8	32,362,722,714	33,742,112,714

Historic Trend Table				
Historic Trend Analysis Data	Actuals 2018-19 [7]	Actuals 2019-20 [7]	Estimates 2020-21 [7]	Estimates 2021-22
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Ministry Total Operating and Capital Including Consolidation and Other Adjustments (not including Assets)	30,419,703,515	31,747,513,332	32,362,722,714	32,953,217,814
Percent change (%)	N/A	4%	2%	2%

For additional financial information, see:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/expenditure-estimates>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/public-accounts>

<https://budget.ontario.ca/2021/index.html>

Agencies, boards and commissions (ABCs)			
Agencies, Boards and Commissions [8]	2021-22 Expenditure Estimates \$	2020-21 Expenditure Interim Actuals \$	2019-20 Expenditure Actuals \$
Ontario Educational Communications Authority (TVO) - Operating Expense	42,906,800	42,906,800	42,906,800
Ontario Educational Communications Authority (TVO) - Capital Expense	1,536,000	1,536,000	1,536,000
Office des télécommunications éducatives de langue française de l'Ontario (TFO) - Operating Expense	24,793,700	24,793,700	24,793,700
Office des télécommunications éducatives de langue française de l'Ontario (TFO) - Capital	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000

Expense			
Education Quality and Accountability Office	28,262,100	31,562,100	31,562,100
Provincial Schools Authority	20,000	17,207	-
Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education	50,500	518	17,608

The ministry is responsible for the following classified agencies:

Operational Enterprise Agencies

Ontario Educational Communications Authority

TVO is Ontario's publicly funded educational media organization. TVO provides high-quality English-language educational programming and services through broadcast, distance education, and interactive web access. Distance education for secondary school credit is provided through the Independent Learning Centre (ILC). TVO is governed by the Ontario Educational Communications Authority Act. Its broadcast licence is governed by the federal Broadcasting Act and Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) licensing.

Office des télécommunications éducatives de langue française de l'Ontario

The Ontario French-language Educational Communications Authority (TFO) provides high-quality educational and cultural multimedia services and content to the 12 French-language school boards and the broader Franco-Ontarian community. The organization also provides French as a Second Language resources to Ontario's 60 English-language school boards. TFO's programming, support services and resources contribute to meeting the ministry's student success priorities. TFO focuses on French-language and culture initiatives, that support the early years, literacy and numeracy, eLearning, and the Politique d'aménagement linguistique (PAL).

Operational Service Agencies

Education Quality and Accountability Office

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) conducts large-scale census assessments of student achievement: grade 3 and grade 6 students in reading, writing and mathematics; grade 9 students

in mathematics; and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, typically administered in grade 10, which is the primary means of satisfying the Ontario literacy requirement for graduation. EQAO publishes annual results for each of its assessments in English and French and provides the education system with board, school and individual student level results. EQAO also administers Ontario’s participation in national and international testing such as Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP) and Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS).

Provincial Schools Authority

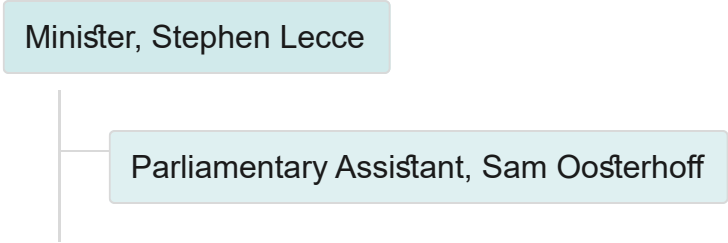
The Provincial Schools Authority (PSA) was established as an agency of the Ministry of Education in 1975 under the *Provincial Schools Negotiations Act*. The PSA is the employer of record for teachers employed in provincially operated schools. These employees are represented by the Provincial Schools Authority Teachers (PSAT), which is a district of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation (OSSTF). The PSA is also the employer of record for principals and vice principals in provincially operated schools. The principals and vice principals are not represented by a union and do not have a collective agreement. The PSA reviews and advises on the terms and conditions of employment for principals and vice-principals. The PSA also handles grievances, leaves and related administrative functions.

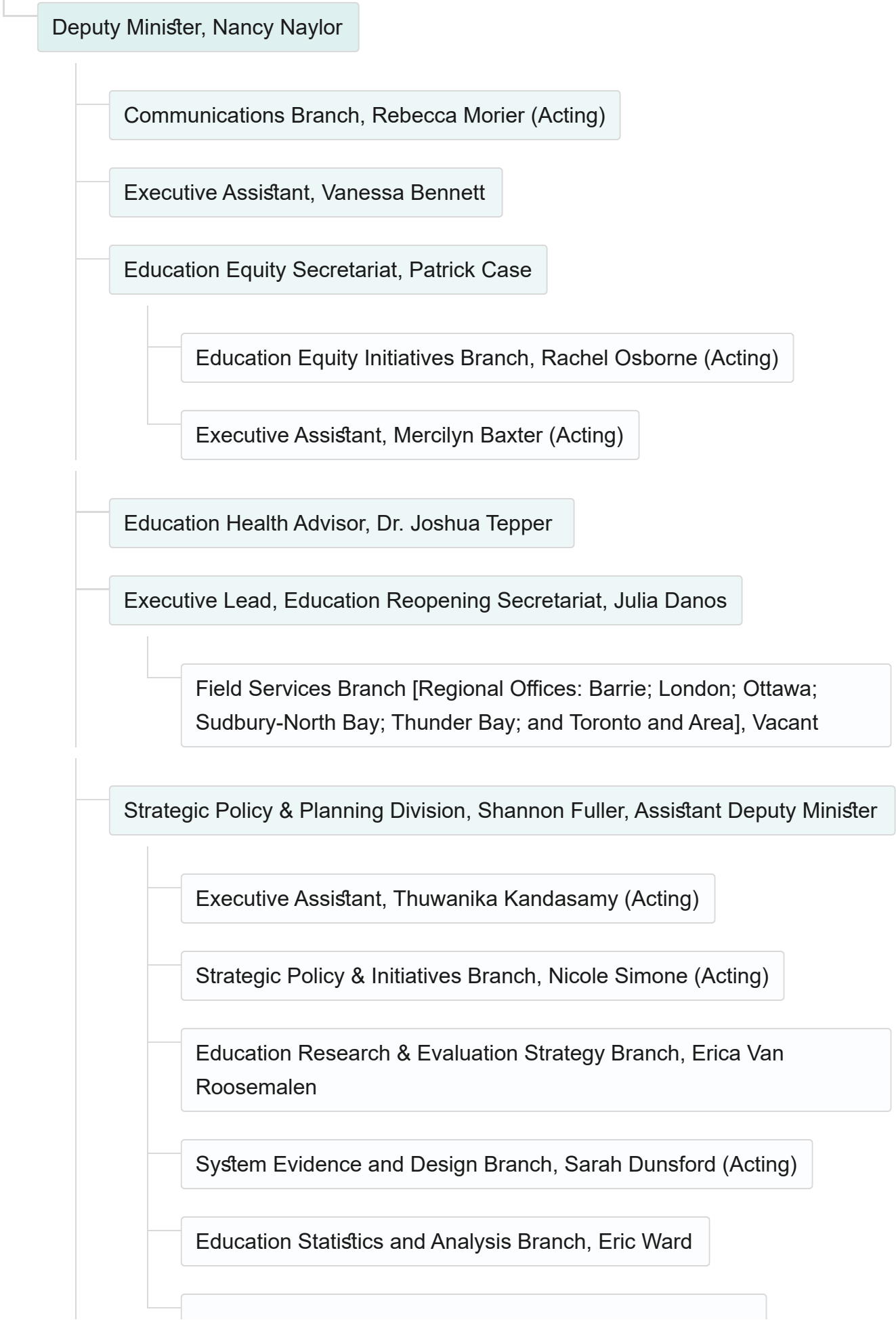
Advisory Agencies

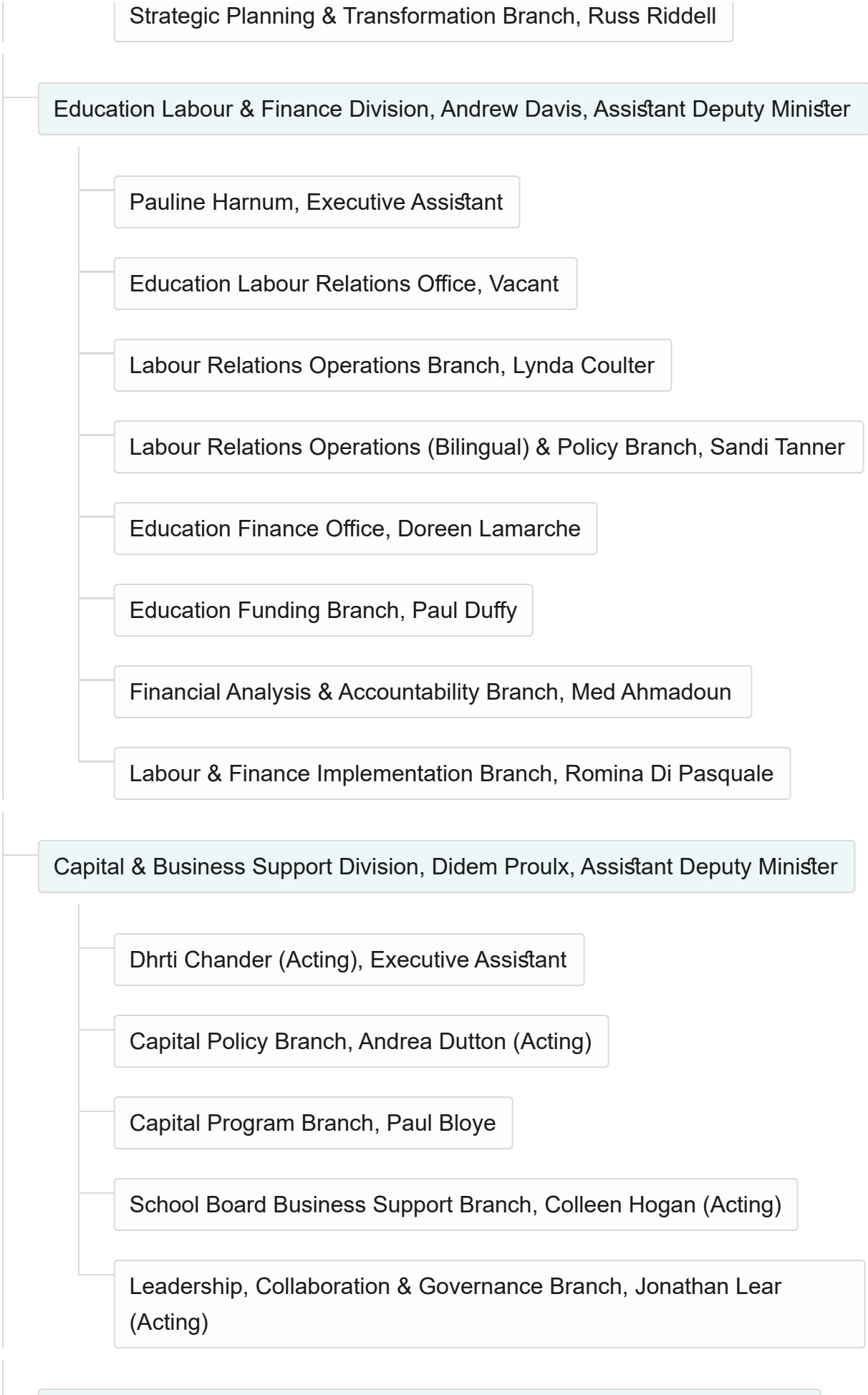
Minister’s Advisory Council on Special Education

The Minister’s Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) advises the Minister on any matter related to the establishment and provision of special education programs and services for students with special education needs.

Ministry organization chart







Early Years & Child Care Division, Phil Graham, Assistant Deputy Minister

Lillian Lo (Acting), Executive Assistant

Early Years & Child Care Programs & Service Integration Branch, Jill Dubrick

Child Care Quality Assurance & Licensing Branch, Jason McLean (Acting)

Financial Accountability & Data Analytics Branch, Becky Doyle

Indigenous Education & Well Being Division, Denise Dwyer, Assistant Deputy Minister

Jennifer Ng (Acting), Executive Assistant

Indigenous Education Office, Taunya Paquette

Safe & Healthy Schools Branch, Patrick Byam

Inclusive Education, Priorities & Engagement Branch, Suzanne Gordon

Student Support & Field Services Division, Claudine Munroe (Acting), Assistant Deputy Minister

Silva Boghossian (Acting), Executive Assistant

Special Education / Success for All Branch, Claudine Munroe

Provincial & Demonstration Schools Branch, Karyn Bruneel

Student Achievement Division, Yael Ginsler (Acting), Assistant Deputy Minister

Hannah McKibbon (Acting), Executive Assistant

Professionalism, Teaching Policy & Standards Branch, Rachel Ryerson (Acting)

Curriculum Assessment & Student Success Policy Branch, Jennifer Chan (Acting)

Skills Development & Apprenticeship Branch, Dianne Oliphant (Acting)

Student Achievement Supports Branch, Vacant

French Language Teaching, Learning & Achievement Division, Denys Giguere, Assistant Deputy Minister

Sira Kanoute (Acting), Executive Assistant

French-Language Education, Policies and Programs Branch, Luc Davet

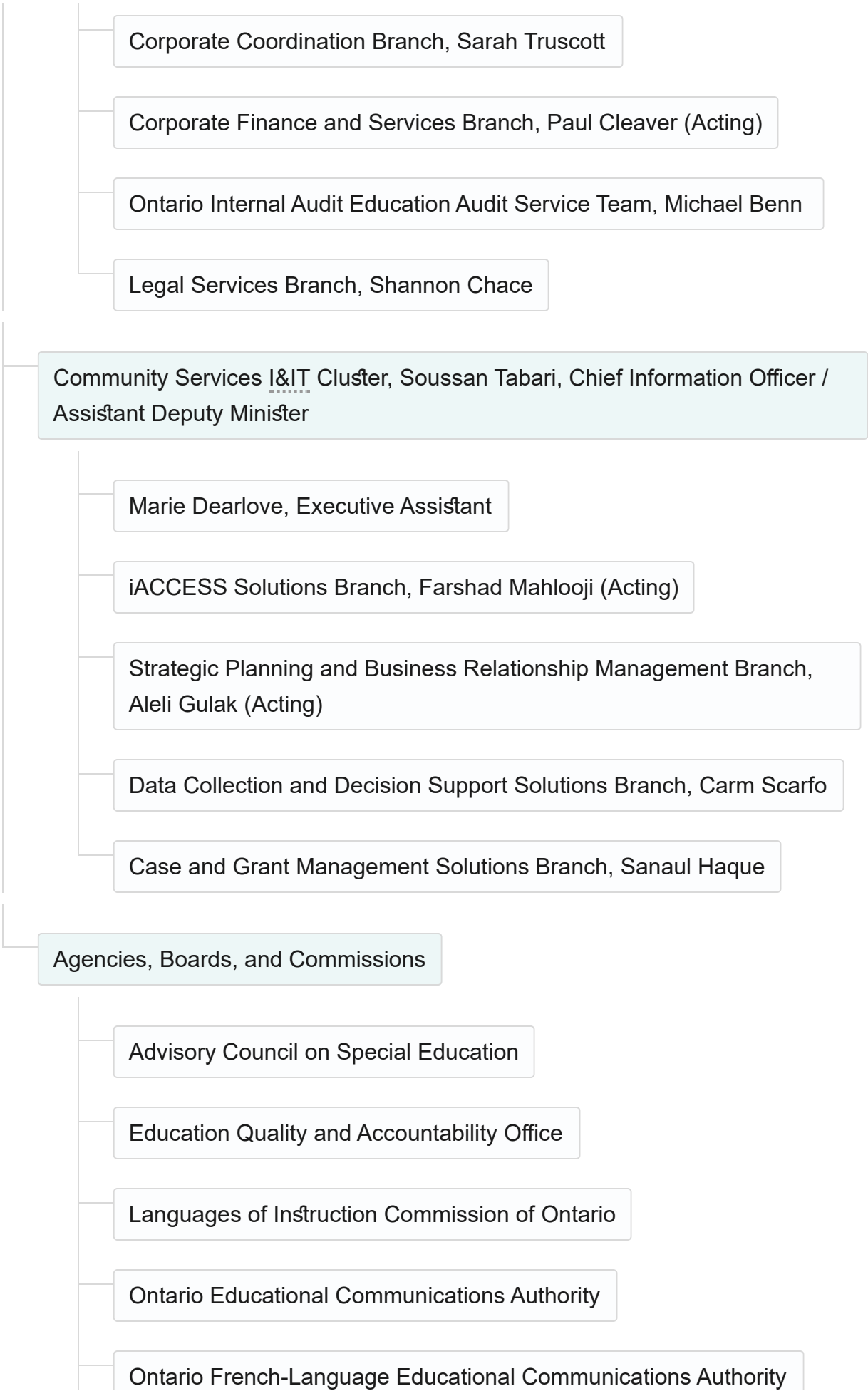
French-Language Teaching & Learning Branch, Véronique Simcoe (Acting)

French-Language Priorities Branch (MCU) Gilles Fortin

Corporate Management and Services Division, Sarah Truscott (Acting), Assistant Deputy Minister

Deborah Camacho (Acting), Executive Assistant

Strategic Human Resources Branch, Nadine Ramdial



Provincial Schools Authority

[Download printer-friendly organization chart \(JPG, 256 KB\).](#)

Appendix A: 2020-21 Annual Report

Below are highlights of the Ministry of Education's 2020-21 accomplishments and achievements, beginning with announcements made March 31, 2020 and onward. For more information, please refer to [Ontario's official news source](#).

Highlights of 2020-21 achievements

[Ontario extends school and child care closures to fight spread of COVID-19](#)

Due to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 outbreak, the Ontario government announced that schools and child care centres will remain closed to protect the health and safety of students and staff. This extension was made on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

To ensure continuity of learning, the government launched the second phase of Learn at Home. Developed in conjunction with education partners, the government provided clarity for parents, enhancing education supports, and creating opportunities for teachers and educators to connect with students.

[Ontario protects parents during COVID-19](#)

During the COVID-19 outbreak, the Ontario government temporarily prevented child care centres from collecting payments from parents, while also ensuring that their child care spaces were protected. Child care centres, with the exception of those accommodating health care and other frontline workers, were ordered closed to help prevent the spread of the virus and keep the children and child care staff safe.

[Ontario offers emergency child care to more frontline staff](#)

The Ontario government expanded the list of essential workers eligible to receive emergency child care.

This helped additional frontline staff during the COVID-19 outbreak. An emergency order was also issued which offered support to those providing a variety of critical services including people who assist vulnerable communities, emergency response and law enforcement sector staff, more health and safety workers, and certain federal employees.

[School closures extended to keep students, staff and families safe](#)

Based on expert advice from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and health officials on the COVID-19 Command Table, Education Minister Stephen Lecce announced that all publicly funded schools would remain closed until at least May 31, 2020, as part of an effort to keep students, staff and families safe from COVID-19.

[Restoring public confidence with the Peel district school board](#)

Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, announced the appointment of Arleen Huggins to conduct an investigation into the Peel District School Board's compliance with the Minister's binding Directions to the Board that were issued previously on March 13, 2020.

With the issuance of [27 binding Directions to the Board on March 13, 2020](#), the Minister provided clear direction with specific timelines and deliverables to address systemic discrimination, particularly anti-Black racism, as well as dysfunctional governance, leadership and human resources practices within the PDSB.

[Supervisor appointed to peel district school board](#)

Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, issued a statement on the appointment of Bruce Rodrigues to supervise the Peel District School Board (PDSB). The appointment of a Supervisor allowed the PDSB to get back on track and undertake the necessary actions to eliminate the practices and policies underpinning discrimination and inequities.

[More frontline workers eligible for emergency child care](#)

The Ontario government further expanded the list of essential workers eligible to receive free emergency child care during the COVID-19 outbreak. Those who benefitted included people who work in the food supply chain, retirement homes, grocery stores and pharmacies, and certain federal employees, including the military.

[Ontario government supporting parents as economy reopens](#)

The Ontario government announced it would protect licensed child care in Ontario during the COVID-19 outbreak by ensuring parents retain access to local licensed child care, as well as EarlyON Child and Family Centres. The government unveiled a plan that, together with federal and municipal partnership, provided supports to licensed child care providers to ensure they remained sustainable and ready to open when parents returned to work.

Voluntary redeployment of education workers to fill staffing shortages

The Ontario government worked together with the province's education sector to voluntarily place available employees in staffing roles needed at congregate care settings during the COVID-19 outbreak. This initiative was part of the government's ongoing efforts to redeploy broader public sector workers to areas where they were needed most, such as hospitals, long-term care homes, retirement homes, women's shelters, and homes serving those with developmental disabilities.

A framework was developed and endorsed by the Ontario government, trustees' associations, and almost all of the provincial union representatives that would allow the temporary voluntary redeployment of education sector employees, while ensuring they maintained their employment status with their school boards.

Ontario helping parents return to work

The Ontario government announced its plan to reopen child care centres across the province to support the next stage of the province's reopening framework. Developed in consultation with Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and medical leaders at The Hospital for Sick Children, the plan required child care operators to follow strict health protocols to ensure the safety of child care staff and children.

As the province continued to implement its *Framework for Reopening the Province*, child care centres and home care providers across Ontario were able to reopen with strict safety and operational requirements in place, similar to the safety guidelines required for emergency child care centres.

Ontario develops additional learning materials for students and teachers

The Ontario government, in partnership with Science North and the Ontario Science Centre, created additional educational content for students and teachers during the school closures resulting from

COVID-19. The province provided up to \$1.5 million to create made-in-Ontario videos and resources to support Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) learning. The resources aligned with the four science strands in the curriculum and helped students from kindergarten to grade 12.

[Ontario makes major investment in mental health and technology to support students](#)

Ontario Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, announced \$15 million to purchase thousands of classroom computers, and \$10 million to hire additional mental health workers. These new resources helped ensure students could return to school with the confidence and the tools they need to succeed. This funding represented the highest amount the Ministry of Education had ever dedicated to these two areas through the Grants for Student Needs (GSN).

Through consultations with Public Health Ontario, the Hospital for Sick Children and front-line workers, the government heard about the need for enhanced mental health supports to respond to COVID-19. This \$10 million investment provided students with unprecedented direct access to regulated mental health professionals and significantly reduced wait times.

[Ontario makes historic investment in public education](#)

The Ontario government announced that it is investing \$736 million more in public education for the 2020-21 school year, increasing the total to more than \$25.5 billion. This funding, through the Grants for Student Needs (GSN), represented the largest investment in public education in Ontario's history. As a result, Ontario's average per-pupil funding amount reached \$12,525, which was an increase of \$250 over the previous year.

Under the GSN, a new \$213 million student-centric Supports for Students Fund also supported:

- special education
- mental health and well-being
- language instruction
- Indigenous education
- STEM programming

[Ontario introduces new math curriculum for elementary students](#)

The Ontario government released the province's new elementary math curriculum to better prepare students for work in a rapidly changing world, strengthen math competence and improve grades. The curriculum was developed over two years in consultation with parents, math educators, academics and math education experts, and is designed to reverse a decade of declining math scores. It was made available to students across the province beginning in September 2020.

Ontario taking bold action to address racism and inequity in schools

The Ontario government announced bold new changes to the education system to help break down barriers for Black, Indigenous and racialized students and provide all students with an equal opportunity to succeed.

As part of this action, the province committed to moving forward with plans to end grade 9 streaming into applied and academic courses, eliminate discretionary suspensions for students in kindergarten to grade 3, strengthen sanctions for teachers who engage in behaviour of a racist nature, and provide teachers with additional anti-racism and anti-discrimination training.

Ontario building and expanding schools across the province

The Ontario government invested over \$500 million to build 30 new schools and make permanent additions to 15 existing facilities, supporting over 25,000 student spaces across the province. These new, modern schools will create the foundation for a 21st century learning environment for thousands of students across the province. This investment will also generate nearly 900 new licensed child care spaces to ensure families across the province are able to access child care in their communities.

The government committed to investing over \$12 billion in capital grants over 10 years to build critical new school capital projects and permanent additions. This built upon the government's commitment to invest up to \$1 billion over five years to create up to 30,000 licensed child care spaces in schools, including up to 10,000 spaces in new schools and school additions.

Ontario releases plan for safe reopening of schools in September

The Ontario government announced the safe reopening of schools for in-class instruction beginning in September 2020. The government unveiled a [plan](#) that prioritized the health and safety of students and staff, and provided school boards with unprecedented resources and flexibility, while accommodating regional differences in trends of key public health indicators. This plan was developed in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the COVID-19 Command Table and paediatric experts.

Historic agreement delivers over \$230 million for child care

The Ontario government, in partnership with the federal government, provided \$234.6 million in funding to keep children and staff safe in child care and early years settings. This funding helped support enhanced cleaning costs as well as health and safety requirements set out to support the reopening of licensed child care and early years programs. This funding was in addition to the Ontario government's continued commitment to stabilize the child care sector as many Ontarians return to work.

Ontario takes additional steps to better protect students and staff

The Ontario government provided more than half a billion dollars in supports to school boards to ensure schools across the province could reopen safely in September and to protect students and staff. These supports enabled school boards to provide more physical distancing in classrooms and direct funding to utilize non-school community spaces, and allowed school boards to make adjustments based on their local needs.

Ontario transfers Governance of Francophone school serving students with special needs

The Ontario government proudly announced the transfer of governance of Centre Jules-Léger (CJL) from the Ministry of Education to the CJL Consortium. This transfer marked a major milestone for the Franco-Ontarian community, as it ensured that the province's only French-language school for children who are Deaf or hard of hearing, blind or have low vision, are deafblind, or have severe learning disabilities would be governed by Francophones for Francophones.

Additional funds enhance ontario's robust back-to-school plan

The Ontario government's back-to-school plan, developed in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and public health officials, was further enhanced by additional federal investments and resources to support the return to class in the fall. The Federal Safe Return to Class Fund provided an initial \$381 million to Ontario school boards, on top of the nearly \$900 million provided by the province to support provincial back-to-school plans.

Ontario releases COVID-19 management plan for schools

As part of Ontario's plan for students to safely return to the classroom in September, the government released the [*Operational Guidance: COVID-19 Management in Schools*](#) document. This guide was

developed in consultation with public health experts, including Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, and aimed to help schools identify and isolate COVID-19 cases, reduce the spread of COVID-19 in schools, and prevent and minimize outbreaks.

In addition, it was announced that Dr. Dirk Huyer, who was recently the Executive Lead for the COVID-19 Testing Approach at the Command Table and is the Chief Coroner for Ontario, would serve as Coordinator, Provincial Outbreak Response.

Ontario expanding youth training programs to promote the skilled trades

The Ontario government announced it was investing \$43 million in expanded youth training programs to give young people exposure to more employment options. The programs helped to increase awareness and encourage youth to acquire the skills that will start them down the path to lifelong success while supporting Ontario's economic recovery and future prosperity.

Governments extend child care funding to support working parents

Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, and Ahmed Hussen, Federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, announced an additional investment through the one-year Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (ELCC) of nearly \$147 million to Ontario for 2020-21. This funding helped licensed child care providers and EarlyON child and family centres.

In 2020-21, ELCC funding supported measures to minimize the impacts of COVID-19. It would also continue to support initiatives outlined in the initial three-year agreement, including increased access for families and professional learning for staff. Funding provided through the ELCC was in addition to \$234.6 million being provided through the Safe Restart Agreement to keep children and staff safe in child care and early years settings.

Ontario takes extraordinary steps to reopen schools safely

As students, teachers and staff return to school, the Ontario government provided up to \$1.3 billion in critical supports after delivering more than 37 million pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) to safely reopen classrooms across the province. These investments were part of Ontario's comprehensive back to school plan which was developed in consultation with medical experts, school boards, and educators.

Ontario launches new COVID-19 screening tool to help protect students and staff

The Ontario government launched a [new voluntary interactive screening tool](#) to assist parents, students and staff with the daily assessment of COVID-19 symptoms and risk factors. Screening was required before attending school. The results let parents, students, and education staff know whether they should attend school each day or guide at-risk individuals to proper resources. This tool was another layer of prevention that the province used to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and the communities where they live and work.

Ontario moving to standardized online testing for students

The Ontario government is modernizing large-scale provincial student testing to better prepare youth for the future, and re-build parent confidence in the education system. The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), which creates and administers assessments, will procure a firm to develop an online, adaptive testing platform.

For the 2020-21 school year, EQAO is field-testing online assessments for grade 9 math and for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). This field test will provide an opportunity for students to try this new format and will support the continued development of the assessment platform.

Ontario working to increase the supply of French-language teachers in the province

The Ontario government took action to recruit and retain more French teachers to ensure that all students receive a high-quality French-language or French as a Second Language (FSL) education. To assist in this effort the province supported various initiatives such as career fairs, and partnered with two working groups to focus on professional development for French teachers and raise awareness of employment opportunities.

Ontario revises COVID-19 screening guidance for schools and child care

In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government updated its COVID-19 school and child care screening guidance. This additional information helped parents determine when it was most appropriate for students, children and their families to seek a test for COVID-19.

The school and child care screening guidance was updated with two sets of questions about symptoms and information to help parents make informed decisions about whether their children should attend school or child care, or whether or not to consult a health care provider, or get tested for COVID-19. The guidance could be found immediately at the [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care](#), and the refreshed online tool was launched in October 2020 for download.

[**Ontario taking action to improve child care**](#)

Ontario released two child care reports: [Strengthening Early Years and Child Care in Ontario](#) and the [Early Years and Child Care Annual Report 2020](#). The [Strengthening Early Years and Child Care in Ontario](#) report detailed how Ontario is helping to provide more child care and before and after school spaces for parents, as well as increasing opportunities for home child care providers. The report was developed with input from families and sector partners. These same groups provided input into the review of the [Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014](#).

[**Ontario releases \\$35 million to hire more staff, improve remote learning in targeted communities**](#)

The Ontario government announced the allocation of \$35 million to provide additional immediate school board supports in the communities of Peel, Ottawa, Toronto and York Region to enhance public health measures and protection strategies as they confronted higher rates of transmission in their communities.

[**Ontario invests \\$550 million to build and upgrade schools**](#)

The Ontario government invested \$550 million to build 20 new schools and eight permanent school additions across the province in 2020-21. These new projects will create nearly 16,000 new student learning spaces and 870 new licensed child care spaces as part of the government's ongoing efforts to improve and build modern schools.

[**Ontario provides additional support to help indigenous students succeed**](#)

Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, announced that the Ontario government is providing \$17 million dollars over three years to support First Nation, Métis, Inuit, and urban Indigenous education partners. This funding provided certainty for Indigenous education partners while ensuring safe learning environments for Indigenous students – either in person, or through remote and alternative learning options.

Ontario providing additional funding to enhance safety and protection in schools

The Ontario government announced it was providing \$13.6 million to enable school boards to hire more teachers and staff in regions recently moved to the Red-Control level and providing stabilization funding for school boards, if needed. The province also expanded testing in school communities and launched new online learning portals. These initiatives enhanced safety measures for schools and alleviate potential budget shortfalls during COVID-19.

Ontario providing additional financial support for young learners

The Ontario government provided additional financial relief for families facing new education-related expenses in the COVID-19 era with support totalling \$380 million. The program was expanded to secondary school students to help parents offset education costs.

Safer at home programs provide relief to Ontario families

The Ontario government announced it was providing new financial supports for individuals, families and small businesses, as they do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the province's health care system during the Provincewide Shutdown. The province expanded the Support for Learners program to include secondary school students and lowering electricity prices to a discounted off-peak rate 24/7 for all time-of-use and tiered customers.

Ontario provides funding for autism training

The Ontario government announced it was providing \$7.5 million to help educators better support children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The funding was used to deliver online courses and training opportunities for teachers and educational assistants in all 72 of Ontario's district school boards. The training program is delivered by the Geneva Centre for Autism.

Ontario supporting increased access to French-language early years and child care programs

Ontario invested \$150,000 to create two new positions at the provincial advocacy group l'Association francophone à l'éducation des services à l'enfance de l'Ontario (AFÉSEO). These positions promote the recruitment, retention and professional development of French-language early childhood educator staff

while supporting the provision of high-quality French-language services in child care and early years programs.

Ontario making additional investments to keep students and staff safe

The Ontario government announced it would provide an additional \$381 million, provided through the [federal Safe Return to Class Fund](#), to keep schools safe from COVID-19. Although transmission in schools had been low, this funding was used to optimize air quality and ventilation in schools, support online learning, promote student mental health and hire additional staff. With this new funding, over \$1.6 billion was made available to schools to better protect students, staff, and families.

Enhanced safety measures in place as in-person learning resumes across Ontario

Education Minister, Stephen Lecce, announced the dates for the return of in-person learning in all remaining Ontario public health units (PHUs). The government's decision was based on the advice of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, the unanimous recommendation of the Council of Medical Officers of Health, and with the support of local Medical Officers of Health.

Ontario takes action to support working families and improve child care

The Ontario government announced regulatory amendments to support working families and improve the child care and early years sector, and advance the province's dual priorities of accessibility and affordability for parents.

Province doubles support for parents with new Ontario COVID-19 Child Benefit

The Ontario government provided parents with \$980 million in direct support as part of the Ontario COVID-19 Child Benefit. Under this new round of funding, payments were doubled to \$400 per child and \$500 for a child with special needs to help offset additional learning costs. This investment was part of the 2021 Budget, Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy.

Ratification of central labour agreements announced in 2020-21

[Minister of Education Statement on Ratification of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association Central Agreement](#)

[Ratification of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario Central Agreements](#)

[Ontario Council of Educational Workers Central Agreement Now Ratified](#)

[Ratification of Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens Central Agreement](#)

[Ratification of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation Central Agreements](#)

[Ratification of the Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario Central Agreement](#) (statement published on February 2020)

Ministry interim actual expenditures 2020-21 (\$M)	
Item	Amount
COVID-19 Approvals [8]	2,688.5
Other Operating	29,796.6
Other Capital	1,497.0
TOTAL [9]	33,982.1
Staff Strength [10]	1,587.5
(As of March 31, 2021)	

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Footnotes

- [1]  Includes statutory appropriations but excludes consolidation adjustments and assets. The Other category includes Statutory Salaries and Bad Debt Expense in votes 1001, 1002 and 1004. The appropriation approvals for COVID-19 Time Limited initiatives as per the 2021 Ontario Budget.
- [2]  Includes statutory appropriations but excludes consolidation adjustments and assets. The Other category includes Amortization Expense and Expense related to Capital Assets in votes 1002 and 1004. The appropriation approvals for COVID-19 Time Limited initiatives as per the 2021 Ontario Budget.
- [3]  The appropriation approvals for COVID-19 Time-Limited initiatives as per the 2021 Ontario Budget.
- [4]  Includes statutory appropriations but excludes consolidation adjustments. This number is based on changes in ministry organization and/or program structure as approved in the 2021 Ontario Budget.
- [5]  Includes statutory appropriations but excludes consolidation adjustments and assets. The funding for COVID-19 initiatives has been managed from within.
- [6]  Estimates, Interim Actuals and Actuals for prior fiscal years are re-stated to reflect any changes in ministry organization and/or program structure as approved in the 2021 Ontario Budget. Interim Actuals reflect the numbers presented in the 2021 Ontario Budget. Estimates 2020-21 include Supplementary Estimates 2020-21.
- [7]  Estimates, Interim Actuals and Actuals for prior fiscal years are re-stated to reflect any changes in ministry organization and/or program structure as approved in the 2021 Ontario Budget. Interim Actuals reflect the numbers presented in the 2021 Ontario Budget.
- [8]  Not including consolidation adjustments.
- [9]  Includes statutory appropriations but excludes consolidation adjustments. This number is based on Restated Interim Actuals which reflect any changes in ministry organization and/or program structure as approved in the 2021 Ontario Budget, and final actual expenditures will be stated in the 2020-21 Public Accounts.
- [10]  This number excludes seasonal staff, students, and employees on leave.

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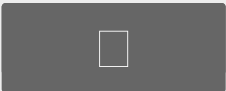


Ministry of Education

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