

**To:** ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members  
**From:** Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)  
**Date:** February 9, 2024  
**Regarding:** **Future Updates to the Ontario Curriculum**

Ministry memo to school boards regarding mandatory learning in Grades 7,8 and 10 on the experiences and history of Black Canadians:

**Date:** February 8, 2024

**Memorandum to:** Directors of Education  
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities

**From:** Yael Ginsler  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Student Achievement Division

Didier Pomerleau  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
French-Language Education Division

**Subject:** Future Updates to the Ontario Curriculum

We are writing to share that earlier today, the Minister and Parliamentary Assistant announced a commitment to introduce new mandatory learning on the experiences and history of Black Canadians to be included in Grades 7, 8 and 10 History curriculum. Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, all students will learn about the achievements of Black communities in Canada, as well as the many challenges faced and overcome, including contemporary impacts of anti-Black racism as part of the mandatory curriculum expectations.

Grades 7 and 8 history classes will include new mandatory learning about the various Black communities from the 18th century to early 20th century. The Grade 10 Canadian history course will build on this new learning by including the contributions and achievements of Black Canadians in Canadian society post World War II. Students will now learn about the overwhelming contributions of Black individuals to Canada's foundation as a young nation, and the obstacles they faced in the pursuit of building a democratic, inclusive, and prosperous country.

This new learning is in addition to the revisions to Grade 10 History previously announced in November 2023, which will include:

- new expanded learning about the Holocaust to explicitly link the Holocaust to extreme political ideologies, including fascism, antisemitism in Canada in the 1930s and 1940s, and the contemporary impacts of rising antisemitism.
- new mandatory learning about the Holodomor famine and its impact on the Ukrainian community in Canada. The new learning will ensure all students learn about the adverse consequences of extreme political ideologies.

The ministry continues to work to ensure that curriculum is inclusive, reflects the diversity of the Ontario population, and provides students with learning opportunities related to anti-racism and anti-discrimination education.

### **Curriculum Revisions for the 2024-2025 School Year**

As communicated on December 5, 2023, the ministry is preparing the following curriculum revisions for implementation in the 2024-2025 school year:

- A new de-streamed Grade 9 Geography course;
- New Grades 9 and 10 Business Studies courses;
- New Grades 9 and 10 Technological Education courses;
- A new Grade 9 English course for French-language schools; and
- New mandatory learning on mental health literacy in the Grade 10 Career Studies course.

The December memo included new course codes, names, and descriptions to be used in course registration processes and materials for the 2024-25 school year.

Revised curriculum and courses will be made available for educators and parents on the [Curriculum and Resources website](#).

### **The Ontario Curriculum Review and Revision Guide**

In addition, to support transparency on the ministry’s current process of reviewing and revising the curriculum in both English and French for Kindergarten to Grade 12, the ministry has developed the Ontario Curriculum Review and Revision Guide. The guide is intended to provide greater transparency to parents and the public about how the Ontario curriculum is updated and will ensure a consistent approach to curriculum review and revision.

This guide reflects legislative amendments in the *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023*, that provide authority for the Minister to establish guidelines respecting the review and revision of curriculum.

As part of its efforts to continue modernizing curriculum, the ministry will continue to regularly review curriculum to ensure that it is assessed for revision in a timely and consistent way, remains current, and reflects labour market needs and pedagogical expertise.

The guide can be accessed on the [Curriculum and Resources website](#).

“The collective agreement is the rule book, not a guidebook.”

As we continue to modernize curriculum, we would like to thank you for your partnership and ongoing commitment in implementing these important revisions.

Yours sincerely,

Sincerely,

Yael Ginsler  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Student Achievement Division

Didier Pomerleau  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
French-Language Education Division

- c: Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)  
Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)  
Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)  
Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)  
Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des gestionnaires de l'éducation franco-ontarienne (AGÉFO)  
Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)  
Executive Director, Conseil ontarien des directions de l'éducation de langue française (CODELF)  
Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)  
General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)  
General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)  
General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)  
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Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)  
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For more information regarding this *Communiqué* please contact the Local office by phone at 519-474-3150, or by email at [etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com](mailto:etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com)

c/ Released Executive, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local  
Terry Card, President, ETFO Thames Valley Occasional Teacher Local  
Jamie Thom, ETFO Provincial CB Staff Officer