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## SECTION 11: SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES – PROVINCIAL AND DEMONSTRATION SCHOOLS

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Provincial schools and provincial Demonstration Schools:

- are operated by the Ministry of Education;
- provide education for students who are deaf or blind, or who have severe learning disabilities;
- provide an alternative education option;
- serve as regional resource centres for students who are deaf, blind, or deaf-blind;
- provide preschool home visiting services for students who are deaf or deaf-blind;
- develop and provide learning materials and media for students who are deaf, blind, or deaf-blind;
- provide school board teachers with resource services;
- play a valuable role in teacher training.

### Provincial Schools

#### **W. Ross Macdonald School: School for the Blind and Deaf-Blind**

W. Ross Macdonald School is located in Brantford and provides education for students who are blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind. The school provides:

- a provincial resource centre for the visually impaired and deaf-blind;
- support to local school boards through consultation and the provision of special learning materials, such as Braille materials, audiotapes, and large-print textbooks;
- professional services and guidance to ministries of education on an interprovincial, cooperative basis.

Programs are tailored to the needs of the individual student and:

- are designed to help these students learn to live independently in a non-sheltered environment;
- follow the Ontario curriculum developed for all students in the province;
- offer a full range of courses at the secondary level;
- offer courses in special subject areas such as music, broad-based technology, family studies, physical education, and mobility training;
- are individualized, to offer a comprehensive “life skills” program;
- provide through home visiting for parents and families of preschool deaf-blind children to assist in preparing these children for future education.

## **Provincial Schools for the Deaf**

The following Provincial Schools offer services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students:

- Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf, Belleville (serving eastern Ontario)
- Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf, Milton (serving central and northern Ontario)
- Robarts School for the Deaf, London (serving western Ontario)
- Centre Jules-Leger, Ottawa (serving francophone students and families throughout Ontario)

Admittance to a Provincial School is determined by the Provincial Schools Admission Committee in accordance with the requirements set out in Regulation 296.

These schools provide elementary and secondary school programs for deaf students from preschool level to high school graduation. The curriculum follows the Ontario curriculum and parallels courses and programs provided in school boards. Each student has his or her special needs met as set out in his or her Individual Education Plan (IEP). Schools for the deaf:

- provide rich and supportive bilingual/bicultural educational environments which facilitate students' language acquisition, learning, and social development through American Sign Language (ALS) and English;
- operate primarily as day schools;
- provide residential facilities five days per week for those students who do not live within reasonable commuting distance from the school.

Transportation to Provincial Schools for students is provided by school boards.

Each school has a Resource Services Department which provides:

- consultation and educational advice to deaf and hard-of-hearing children and school board personnel;
- information brochures;
- a wide variety of workshops for parents, school boards, and other agencies;
- an extensive home-visiting program delivered to parents of deaf and hard-of-hearing preschool children by teachers trained in preschool and deaf education.

## **Provincial School Contacts**

Teachers may obtain additional information from the Resource Services departments of the Provincial Schools and the groups listed below.

### **Provincial Schools Branch, Ministry of Education**

Provincial Schools Branch  
225 Ontario Street South  
Milton, ON L9T 2M5  
Tel: (905) 878-2851  
Fax: (905) 878-5405

### ***Schools for the Deaf***

The Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf  
255 Ontario Street South  
Milton, ON L9T 2M5  
Tel: (905) 878-2851  
Fax: (905) 878-1354

The Robarts School for the Deaf  
1515 Cheapside Street  
London, ON N5V 3N9  
Tel: (519) 453-4400

The Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf  
350 Dundas Street West  
Belleville, ON K8P 1B2  
Tel: (613) 967-2823

Fax: (613) 967-2857

### ***Schools for the Blind and Deaf-Blind:***

W. Ross Macdonald School  
350 Brant Avenue  
Brantford, ON N3T 3J9  
Tel: (519) 759-0730  
Fax: (519) 759-4741

### ***Schools for the Deaf, Blind, and Deaf-Blind:***

Centre Jules-Leger  
281 Rue Lanark  
Ottawa, ON K1Z 6R8  
Tel: (613) 761-9300  
Fax: (613) 761-9301

### **Provincial Demonstration Schools**

The Ministry of Education provides the services of four provincial Demonstration Schools for Ontario children with severe learning disabilities.

Amethyst School  
1515 Cheapside Street  
London, ON N5V 3N9  
Tel: (519) 453-4400

Sagonaska School  
350 Dundas Street West  
Belleville ON K8P 1B2  
Tel: (613) 967-2830  
Fax: (613) 967-2482

Centre Jules-Leger  
281 Rue Lanark  
Ottawa, ON K1Z 6R8  
Tel: (613) 761-9300  
Fax: (613) 761-9301  
TTY: (613) 761-9302 and 761-9304

Trillium School  
347 Ontario Street S  
Milton, ON L9T 3X9  
Tel: (905) 878-8428  
Fax: (905) 878-7540

Each provincial Demonstration School has an enrolment of forty students. The language of instruction at the Amethyst, Sagonaska, and Trillium schools is English; at Centre Jules-Leger, instruction is in French.

Application for admission to a provincial Demonstration School is made on behalf of students by the school board, with parental consent. The Provincial Committee on Learning Disabilities (PCLD) determines whether a student is eligible for admission.

Although the primary responsibility to provide appropriate educational programs for students with learning disabilities remains with school boards, the ministry recognizes that some students require a residential school setting for a period of time.

The Demonstration Schools were established to:

- provide special residential education programs for students between the ages of 5 and 21 years;
- enhance the development of each student's academic and social skills;
- develop the abilities of the students enrolled to a level that will enable them to return to programs operated by a local school board within two years.

In addition to providing residential schooling for students with severe learning disabilities, the provincial Demonstration Schools have special programs for students with severe learning disabilities in association with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADD/ADHD). These are highly intensive, one-year programs.

The Trillium School also operates Learning for Emotional and Academic Development (LEAD), a special program for students with severe learning disabilities who require an additional level of social/emotional support.

Further information about the academic, residential, LEAD, and LD/ADHD, programs is available from the Demonstration Schools through the Special Needs Opportunity Window (SNOW) website at <http://snow.utoronto.ca>.

An in-service teacher education program is provided at each Demonstration School. This program is designed to share methodologies and materials with teachers of Ontario school boards. Information about the programs offered should be obtained from the schools themselves.