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The Honourable Liz Sandals  
Minister of Education  
22nd Floor, Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

August 14, 2013

Dear Minister Sandals,

I am writing in regards to the upcoming release of the CHV2O curriculum document. I know that you must be aware of the concerns of many educators including myself across the province in relation to this document. I was also just informed that the following question was tabled on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013, in the legislature by MPP Mr. Bailey:

*Would the Minister of Education please answer if, since 2010, has the Minister met with Mr. Nathan Tidridge, the 2008 recipient of the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence, regarding his concerns with the current High School Civics Curriculum changes; changes which have been covered by the Globe and Mail and TVO's the Agenda; if not, will the Minister meet with him before the curriculum is changed.*

I have not heard from the ministry since your appointment to this portfolio, and September is nearly here. I was at my school today to prepare for the coming semester and can report of the mounting frustration of my colleagues concerning the limbo we find ourselves in trying to build our programming for the 2013-14 school year.

In June the ministry released the new elementary curriculum (Social Science and History Ontario Elementary Curriculum) that included some direction for teachers in terms of explaining our parliamentary democracy. However, the definition for Parliament in the document's glossary is still incorrect:

*An assembly responsible for, among other things, passing legislation and granting the right to levy taxes. The Parliament of Canada consists of an appointed governor general (who represents the monarch); the Senate, whose members are appointed; and the House of Commons, whose members are elected.*

Strangely, the correct definition can be found a few lines up under "legislature":

*The federal legislature (Parliament of Canada) consists of the Queen, the Senate, and the House of Commons. The provincial legislatures consist of the lieutenant governor and the elected house.*

Also, while most federal and provincial offices are detailed in the glossary, a definition for "lieutenant governor" is absent.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup> you stated to reporter Faith Goldy "I have not read the curriculum documents that I just signed off on that went out the door in June. Nor does anybody expect me to, the minister and the deputy really don't get involved line-by-line in curriculum documents." I would ask that in this instance you involve yourself more directly in this document before the rush to create active citizens removes the opportunity for them to be informed.

Please find enclosed a letter to the editor that was published in the Summer Bulletin of the Ontario Historical Society.

Sincerely,

Nathan Tidridge OCT

CC: Premier Kathleen Wynne, Hilary Clark (The Agenda with Steve Paikin); Caroline Alphonso (Education Reporter, Globe and Mail); Dr. Peter Russell; The Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy; Karen Gill (Director, Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch)