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For Immediate Release

ONTARIO PUBLIC SUPERVISORY OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION PLEASSED WITH DECEMBER EDUCATION FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The government announcement of funding changes following the release of the Rozanski report on December 10 has been received very positively by the Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association.

Speaking for the Association which represents the superintendents and directors of education of the public district school boards, president Ruth Mattingley stated, "Dr. Rozanski's detailed analysis of the current funding model revealed benchmark deficiencies which have made it impossible to provide an adequate level of local service in the boards across the province. His recommendations will improve that provision in the short term and allow for annual review and adjustment. Senior administrators see the plan as realistic and progressive."

Mattingley commented that OPSOA, which represents two-thirds of the students in Ontario publicly funded schools, supports strongly the quick action by government with their specific announcements last week on special education, transportation and collective agreement benchmarks. She added, "targeting these immediate priorities is a great start at improving the climate in public education. OPSOA looks forward to working with the Ministry of Education on implementing other recommendations from the Rozanski report."

The superintendents and directors of education within OPSOA are responsible directly for the quality of public education within the district school boards and for the implementation of government policy. They have expressed frequently the need for recognition of increasing costs and demands on the system. The current moves by government will be very helpful in developing and maintaining quality programs.

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Media Contact: Frank Kelly, Executive Director, OPSOA (905) 845-7003