

for immediate release

Parents launch new online help

Help for parents available in 14 languages on new parent-run website

Toronto (December 16, 2007) – People for Education today launched a new multi-lingual website – with information for parents in 14 languages.

“Many parents have trouble negotiating the education system,” says Gay Stephenson, People for Education’s Research Coordinator and Webmaster. “With this new website, we’ll have the capacity to provide parents with information about everything from Special Education to choosing high school courses, and the information is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, Farsi, Filipino, French, Korean, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tamil and Urdu.”

Special education help available

With the new site, the group also launched a new tip sheet. The *Special Education Tip Sheet* answers many of parents’ most frequently-asked questions about the often confusing world of Special Education. The tip sheet will help parents know:

- when it’s time to ask for help,
- where to go to get help, and
- how to prepare for Special Education meetings.

“Parents often find Special Education intimidating and confusing – particularly newcomer parents,” says Jacqui Strachan, People for Education’s Parent Support Coordinator. “Some parents worry about ‘labelling’ their child and others worry that their child won’t get the appropriate support. This tip sheet will help. The information is written in plain language, the many Special Education acronyms are explained, and it provides lot of practical advice.”

Multi-lingual tip sheets demystify education system

Making choices about high school courses, preparing students for EQAO tests or simply finding the best way to solve problems at school are all issues that face parents. People for Education’s new website with multi-lingual information will help parents with these issues and more.

“Every family should feel a sense of belonging in Ontario’s public education system,” says People for Education Executive Director Annie Kidder. “People for Education now has a toll-free parent help line, a user friendly website, and lots of great information for parents to ensure that everyone has the tools they need to support their children through school.”

The People for Education website can be found at www.peopleforeducation.com. The tip sheets are at <http://www.peopleforeducation.com/resources/tips.html>. The toll-free Parent Support Line is 1-888-534-3944.

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For more information please call:
People for Education 416-534-0100