



Friday, August 30th, 2019

Dr. Carole Richardson
Dean - Faculty of Education and Professional Studies
Nipissing University
100 College Drive, Box 5002
North Bay, ON, P1B 8L7

Dear Dr. Richardson,

Greetings from the Council of Ontario Drama and Dance Educators (CODE), the provincial subject association for dance and drama in Ontario. We are a stakeholder organization that has existed for almost 50 years, and we support hundreds of elementary and secondary educators across the province through advocacy, resource development, and professional development.

In the past we have partnered with many Faculties of Education to support dance and drama programming in preservice and Additional Qualifications programs. We were recently advised by Deirdre Smith of the Ontario College of Teachers to reach out to you in your role as Chair of the Deans of Faculties of Education. We hope to revive and strengthen this collaboration at a particularly crucial time in education by presenting information about CODE and the ways in which our organization can benefit Faculties of Education at an upcoming Deans' meeting.

In our work with teachers, we often hear their concerns about feeling unprepared to teach dance and drama in the elementary years. We know that in the current preservice program it is challenging to find time and expertise to provide high-quality instruction in dance and drama. Often, teachers begin their careers with little experience and understanding of drama in education, creative movement, or assessment and evaluation practices in the arts.

When both elementary and secondary teachers choose to seek out Additional Qualifications in dance and drama, it is often difficult to find accessible programs across the province. Quality in Additional Qualifications courses can vary, and increasingly teachers are asked to learn online in a format that does not always do justice to the art forms of dance and drama. It is also vitally important that those hired to teach preservice and Additional Qualifications programs have training and credentials in dance and drama education.

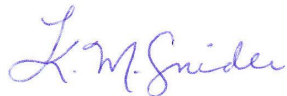
CODE would like to discuss these issues in hope that we can better support teachers in their careers, and we have many ways to provide that help. CODE has expertise in cross-curricular and arts integration, critical literacy, inquiry, and the global competencies that underlie 21st-century learning. The [CODE website](#) houses hundreds of online resources for teachers that demonstrate best practice in the arts. This expertise can be of great help to Faculties of Education in their course design and implementation. CODE is also more than willing to act as a stakeholder voice in decisions about hiring and course design in dance and drama.

It is our hope that we can continue this dialogue at an upcoming Deans' meeting and share with you some of the ways CODE can support the important work you are doing at the Faculties of Education. We look forward to hearing your reply and meeting with you and other Deans of the Faculties of Education in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane Deluzio". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jane Deluzio
CODE President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Snider". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Snider
CODE Past President and Advocacy Chair