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IMMIGRATION TO ONTARIO INCREASES, ESL SUPPORT DECLINES

Over 600,000 foreign immigrants moved to Ontario between 2001 and 2006, most from non-English-speaking countries and many with school-age children. As a result, the proportion of ESL students in schools increased by 24%. Over the same period, the percentage of elementary schools with ESL teachers declined by 23%.

In schools with higher ESL populations (more than 10 ESL students) the percentage reporting ESL students but no ESL teacher has doubled since 2000. Three quarters of Ontario’s ESL students attend schools in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and though 90% of GTA elementary schools report they have ESL students, only 54% report they have ESL teachers.

The new policy does not require school boards to spend ESL money on ESL programs, it does not set standards for an acceptable level of English proficiency and it does not provide funding that recognizes the difference between refugee students needing substantial literacy support and ESL students who have strong literacy skills and only require support to learn the language.

To read the policy go to the Ministry of Education website at:
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/esleldprograms

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RESOURCES

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Thought you might be interested in a website full of ideas for parents. It is
www.parentsmatter.ca.

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EVENTS

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Two documents are available related to the National Metropolis Call for Proposals: Immigration and Homelessness.

The Deadline is 4:00 pm Eastern Time, November 5, 2007. Please note that this is a nationally coordinated CFP and is not the CERIS RFP which will be announced later this term. Please direct any questions on this call to: Josée Letang, tel: (819) 934-5362, josee.letang@hrsdc-rhdsc.gc.ca

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The Canadian Association for Prior Learning Assessment (CAPLA) presents the **Fall Focus Workshop and Annual General Meeting**, November 25-27, 2007 at the Metropolitan Hotel, Toronto, Ontario.

