

Thank You

Dr. Avis Glaze

for Believing in the Future of Ontario Education



Dr. Avis Glaze is truly a model for us all. Her vast experience ranges from teaching in Jamaica to completing two Master of Education programs at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education as well as a Doctorate in Education. She has experience as a secondary school administrator, an education officer with the Ontario Ministry of Education and a research coordinator with the Ontario Women's Directorate of the Ministry of Labour. Dr. Glaze has worked in several school districts, and has been a supervisory officer in both the public and Catholic school boards. She also served as associate director of education with the York Region District School Board and as director of education of Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board. In 1994, she served as a commissioner on the Ontario Royal Commission on Learning. She has worked with educators throughout the world.

She has won numerous awards for outstanding contribution to education, including Educator of the Year, The African Canadian Achievement Award, The Distinguished Educator Award, Contribution to International Education, The Pace Setter Award, the 2001 YWCA Women of Distinction Award, the Harry Jerome Award, and The Order of Ontario.

The Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario's first interaction with Dr. Avis Glaze was in the winter of 2005. Along with our colleagues in ADFO and OPC, we presented to this newly appointed chief student achievement officer of Ontario and CEO of The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, a bold new initiative for professional learning for school administrators. Her warmth and enthusiasm were evident. Her passion was contagious. At that first meeting we brainstormed the name of our project and came up with *Leading Student Achievement: Our Principal Purpose*. I clearly remember her smiling and saying, "I like that." She challenged us from the very beginning and in the years that followed has continually encouraged us to narrow the gap and raise the bar in student achievement, to drill down deeper and to provide equity for all students.

Lou Rocha, executive director of CPCO noted that Premier McGuinty made a strategic decision in hiring Avis Glaze to initiate the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat (LNS). He went on to say,

Avis made a strategic decision to engage CPCO, OPC and ADFO to launch the LNS on April 1, 2005. For the past three years the LNS and the principals' councils have maintained a significant and successful partnership that has been modelled in other initiatives such as Student Success, Mentoring and Coaching and the Institute for Education Leadership. The councils are proud of the work that has been accomplished together with LNS. CPCO is honoured by the trust that Avis and her staff have placed in us and we are committed to continuing this work.

Barbara McMorrow, director of Professional Learning at CPCO made the following comments regarding her association with Avis:

In reaching out to the principals' councils and accepting our ambitious proposal for the innovative and dynamic Leading Student Achievement: Our Principal Purpose, Avis fully supported us in realizing a significant shift in the design, development and delivery of professional learning. It is a shift that reflects a much deeper understanding of the demands and complexities involved in the art of teaching, learning and leading and their interconnectedness. In the Catholic community, Avis' understanding of the vital role that principals play in leading and shaping our schools and system clearly resonated.

On June 9, 2008 the education community in Ontario gathered to honour Avis upon her retirement for her lifetime of commitment to children and education. A friend and colleague Bill Hogarth director of education for the York Region District School Board describes some of Avis' attributes in the following excerpts from his address to those assembled in her honour.

Avis, your influence starts with your personal presence: your warm smile, your bright, hopeful voice, your purposeful step. Your influence is given shape by your integrity, your uncompromising insistence on doing what is right for students. It is given texture by your empathy, your deep caring for others who enter your orbit, however briefly. Your influence is given colour by your passionate dedication to learning and to improving the prospects of every learner for success. It is given dimension by your intelligence, your courage, your common sense...

As a leader, you have never wavered in your commitment to equity. At times, I'm sure, you've done so at considerable emotional cost to yourself. You implored us, challenged us and sometimes even begged us through your tears to affirm and uphold our commitment to equity for all students, regardless of their personal circumstances. You have enlisted us in your personal mission to help to create the conditions to enable children to succeed in school, regardless of their socio-economic status...

For you, public education is a moral enterprise. And you have acted with urgency - and urged us as well - to support our students by preparing our teachers, administrators and other service providers.