

## **Letter to Parents/Guardians**

March 2012

## Dear Parents/Guardians:

In 2003, the provincial and territorial ministers of education, through the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), agreed to develop the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP) as a replacement for the School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP). The program assesses the knowledge and skills of Grade 8/Secondary Two students from across Canada in the areas of reading, science, and mathematics. Each PCAP assessment has one major component and two minor components.

The first PCAP assessment was administered in the spring of 2007 to 13-year old students, and the major component was reading. The second PCAP assessment took place in the spring of 2010 and was administered to Grade 8/Secondary Two students with mathematics as the major component, while reading and science were the minors. The next PCAP assessment will take place in the spring of 2013. In this third assessment, science will be the major component, while reading and mathematics will be the minors. In preparation for the 2013 assessment, field testing for the science component will take place this spring.

New Brunswick is participating in the PCAP field test.

In New Brunswick, four English-language schools have been selected to participate in the field test. In each of these schools, the principal has selected one Grade 8 class to participate.

Because this is a field test of assessment items, students' results will not be published, nor will they affect your child's classroom marks or report card.

Thank you for supporting your child's participation in the PCAP field test.

Sincerely,

Sandra MacKinnon
Director
Assessment and Evaluation Branch
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development