

News Flash

congratulations
GO OUT TO...

Dr. Charles Pascal who received the second annual Egerton Ryerson Award in a tribute reception at Massey College, University of Toronto on February 10, 2009. Established in 2007 by People for Education, this award honours the founder of Canada's public education system – Egerton Ryerson, whose campaign in the mid-1800's was to ensure that every child had free access to education. This is one of the founding principles of the work done by People for Education. In 2008, the inaugural award was bestowed upon Dr. Harold Brathwaite, former Director of the Peel District School Board.



The tribute to Charles Pascal was both humorous and heartfelt, and included speakers who have worked with him in the many different roles he has had throughout his life-long commitment to public education. His interests and work have spanned from early childhood to adult education. He has been a tireless and very effective advocate for strong public education policy that guarantees every child an equitable chance for success in school and in life.

President Joe Lamoureux, Secretary-Treasurer Rhonda Kimberley-Young and Director of Curriculum and Assessment Cyndie Jacobs attended the reception on behalf of the Ontario Teachers' Federation.

don't forget
NOMINATE



Deadline: March 31, 2009

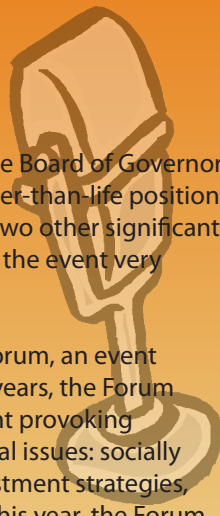
www.teachingawards.ca

Pension News

The OTF Spring Meeting of the Board of Governors always takes on a slightly larger-than-life position in OTF's pension calendar as two other significant events merge with it to make the event very pension intensive.

The first is the OTF Pension Forum, an event open to members. Over the years, the Forum has tackled a range of thought provoking and, occasionally, controversial issues: socially responsible investment, investment strategies, pension law, and mortality. This year, the Forum will run on Friday, April 10.

The second part of the Friday double feature is the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, also open to members. OTPP President and CEO Jim Leech and other senior Plan officials will lay out the 2008 results. The event will be webcast and both the live audience and webcast watchers will have the chance to put their questions to Jim and his staff.



The OTF Teaching Matters PD Web Centre hosts current professional learning opportunities that teachers can participate in. For upcoming events, please visit:

www.teachingmatters.on.ca

OTF is offering three-day workshops in the summer of 2009 at different locations across Ontario.

Information on programs, locations, and online registration will be available on the OTF Teaching Matters PD Web Centre at www.teachingmatters.on.ca in early March 2009.



interaction



February 17, 2009
Volume 11, No. 2

A message FROM THE PRESIDENT

Former OTF President George Meek, while President, used to say that, "...the OTF President is President of all the teachers in Ontario". I hope to hold up to that standard and will continue to advocate for all of us whenever and wherever I can.

As a teacher and your President, I am extremely proud of the work that the members of the Federation do on a daily basis: whether an elementary teacher in Barrie helping a student discover the joy of reading for the first time; a francophone teacher in Toronto who is able to share the rich French heritage of our province; a Catholic teacher in Thunder Bay teaching the appreciation of world religions; or a secondary school teacher in Moosonee ensuring a quality education for our young people. OTF's members province wide are doing wonderful things in every classroom and I applaud each of you for your contribution to our strong collective professional reputation. I want each of you to know that the wonderful staff at OTF is available to support you with three specific areas of focus—our three pillars.

Firstly, we are a strong voice that advocates for the profession and that advocacy takes many forms. I do encourage you to vote for the OTF-supported candidates for the College of Teacher elections to ensure that we have strong representatives of the profession in that forum as well. I have attended meetings with the Ministry staff, Minister Wynne and other education stakeholders over the last few months. Whether the topic is standardized testing, anti-bullying, media violence or the College of Teachers, I have been and will continue to be a strong advocate for OTF members.

Secondly, a very central component of the work of OTF is the responsibility for the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP). We continue to follow-up on the details of the last round of negotiations and the OTF Executive has struck a committee to review the 2008 negotiations process which will be reported on in the near future. As well, the OTPP Annual Report will be the subject of our Annual OTF Pension Forum in April. We continue to safeguard the pension promise and ask that you watch for any upcoming Pension *Communiqués* for updates.



George (Joe) Lamoureux

Lastly, OTF's third pillar is putting forth positions on various Government policy initiatives that affect teachers in the province. My Ph. D. candidacy in policy studies makes this an area of great interest to me. I am extremely pleased to be involved in responses to various policy discussions and look forward to continuing to contribute in this way.

Former Ontario Premier Bill Davis advised me when I took the office as OTF President, that "The Affiliates are the unions, and OTF is the professional advocate for the profession". I could not agree more. It is in this spirit that I look forward to celebrating the 65th anniversary of OTF later this year. Being created by an Act of the Legislature in 1944, OTF has a proud history of advocating for the profession. However, this was not accomplished by standing still. We are currently undergoing a review of the by-laws, policies and legislation that govern OTF in the *We the Teachers of Ontario* handbook. With our new logo and the upcoming launch of a new website, I look forward to OTF continuing to deliver outstanding service to our members well into the future.



**Ontario College of
Teachers' Elections**

OTF and the Ontario College of Teachers

A teacher with many years of experience was recently engaged in a conversation with a beginning teacher. “What exactly is the difference,” asked the beginning teacher, “between the OTF and the College of Teachers?”

To be honest, I’m a little confused about which is which.”

The following is a basic description for each organization.



The Ontario College of Teachers (the College) has been in existence for over ten years now; OTF for well over 60, so it is interesting that teachers—both those new to the profession, and those a little further on in their careers—are confused about the relative roles of these two very different organizations. This confusion may exist because, for many classroom teachers, both organizations are distant bodies connected to their professional lives, primarily through legal obligations for membership and to pay fees. Teachers pay a fee of \$120 per year to the College, shown as a separate deduction from their pay from their school board. In comparison, teachers pay approximately \$30 per year to OTF and this amount is included in the total dues paid to their Affiliate. The provincial Affiliates forward that amount to OTF based on their membership numbers.

All teachers employed in the publicly funded schools of Ontario must be members of both OTF and the College. In addition, any person (whether employed in the publicly funded system or not) who wishes to hold an Ontario Certificate of Qualification (OCQ) must belong to the College. In other words, being a member in good standing at the College equates to being licensed to teach in the province of Ontario. Additionally, employees in school boards (principals, vice-principals, superintendents) are members of the College but not members of OTF.

In summary, the Ontario College of Teachers is the body that licenses, governs and regulates the profession of teaching. It sets standards of practice and ethical standards, conducts disciplinary hearings and accredits teacher education programs. It undertakes all of this “in the public interest”; that is, to protect the public from unqualified or incompetent individuals or from the small number of teachers who exploit their positions of power and mistreat the students in their care.

By contrast, OTF is the professional organization that advocates on behalf of teachers. At its core, OTF represents the voice of teachers in the province, and is responsible for speaking out on behalf of teachers. It is the Federation’s duty to work explicitly and implicitly in the interest of the province’s teachers.

MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE ELECTION CAN BE FOUND ON THE COLLEGE WEBSITE AT WWW.OCT.CA.

THIS PRINCIPAL GOAL IS CLEARLY ARTICULATED IN THE SIX OBJECTS OF THE FEDERATION:

- to promote and advance the cause of education;
- to raise the status of the teaching profession;
- to promote and advance the interests of teachers and to secure conditions that will make possible the best professional service;
- to arouse and increase public interest in educational affairs;
- to co-operate with other teachers’ organizations throughout the world having the same or like objects; and
- to represent all members of the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan in the administration and management of the pension fund.

When you look more closely at the divergent responsibilities of the two organizations, it becomes clear that the College and OTF are very different creatures. In a nutshell, the College operates in the public interest, while OTF operates in the interests of the teaching profession.

College Elections 2009

Elections for the fifth Governing Council of the College will be held this spring, with voting taking place electronically from March 9 to April 14, 2009. The Governing Council is the main governing body of the OCT. Membership on this Council is made up of both elected and appointed individuals. Teachers have the right and responsibility to elect 19 colleagues to represent the different panels, systems and various regions of Ontario. There are four other seats filled by a principal, supervisory officer, private school and faculty of education representative. The Government of Ontario appoints 14 members of the public to complete the balance of the 37 seats on the Council.

A few years ago, teachers were given a majority of the positions on the Governing Council and this is the second election since that time. In previous elections, the Federation distributed information about the candidates in order for teachers to learn about them prior to the election for the Governing Council. In this election, OTF and the Affiliates are again recommending candidates whom they believe merit support from their colleagues.

In total, teachers can vote for nine candidates: Teachers can vote for all seven of the System positions, regardless of what System they actually teach in. These seven positions are:

- English Public Elementary
- English Public Secondary
- English Catholic Elementary
- English Catholic Secondary
- French Catholic Elementary
- French Catholic Secondary
- French Public

In addition, teachers can vote for two candidates (one full-time and one part-time) who are from their own region. For these Regional positions, the province has been divided into six areas:

- Northwest
- Northeast
- Southeast
- Southcentral
- Southwest
- Central

Teachers are not permitted to vote for any of the four positions designated for principals/vice-principals, private schools, supervisory officers or faculties of education.

For the election this spring, the College has announced that 14 of the 19 teacher positions are acclamations; that is to say, there was only one eligible candidate whose name was submitted by the close of nominations. Therefore, the individual has, in each case, been considered automatically elected.

TEACHERS ARE BEING ASKED TO CAST THEIR VOTES FOR THE FIVE REMAINING CONTESTED POSITIONS.

OTF has carefully reviewed the credentials of the candidates running for these five positions and believes that the following individuals would serve the profession with insight and integrity. OTF encourages you to give them your support.

REGIONAL POSITIONS

Southcentral

(Part-time or Full-time)

HANNO WEINBERGER

Southwest

(Part-time or Full-time)

BRIAN DOUBLEDAY

Central

(Part-time or Full-time)

TERRY PRICE

Northeast (Full-time)

IRENE DEMBEK

SYSTEM POSITIONS

English Public Elementary

ANNILEE JARVIS