

## **OTF President's Message on World Teachers' Day**

**Toronto, October 3, 2008** — Joe Lamoureux, a Barrie teacher was elected the 65th President of the Ontario Teachers' Federation at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors in August. He is currently on leave from the Simcoe County District School Board where he has been teaching since 2001.

A lifelong learner, Lamoureux has degrees from Nipissing, Western, Trent and Queen's. While serving as OTF, President he is also a PhD candidate in the joint program offered by Brock, Lakehead and Western in the area of education policy development.

Since qualifying as a teacher, Lamoureux has taught in both elementary and secondary panels and has experience in New Zealand and Moosonee, Ontario. He has also been a very active member in OSSTF serving as his local president in Simcoe.

Drawing on his variety of teaching experiences, he sent this message to the 160,000 teachers in Ontario's publicly funded schools on the eve of World Teachers' Day.

Having taught in a very small community in Northern Ontario, in the larger community in Barrie and in New Zealand, I have seen the reality of what connects teachers worldwide. We have a passion for learning that we want to share with our students.

This solidarity of purpose joins us today with our fellow teachers everywhere. World Teachers' Day is the time for us to honour those who pursue this passion in difficult circumstances in war ravaged countries; those who work every day to ensure that all children – especially girls – have the opportunity for education; those who see the light of understanding brighten in a student's eyes; and those whose schools are well resourced and supported.

Regardless of where you are teaching, you know that each and every day you are changing lives. Thank you for your dedication.

UNESCO inaugurated October 5 as World Teachers' Day in 1994. According to UNESCO, World Teachers' Day represents a significant recognition, understanding, and appreciation for the vital contribution that teachers make to education and development. The theme of World Teachers' Day this year is "Teachers Change Your Life."

The Ontario Teachers' Federation is the advocate for the teaching profession in Ontario and for its 160,000 teachers. OTF members are full-time, part-time and occasional teachers in all the publicly funded schools in the province - elementary, secondary, public, Catholic and francophone.

The Ontario Teachers' Federation represents 144,000 full-time, part-time and occasional teachers in the publicly funded public, Catholic and francophone schools in Ontario.

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