

Press Release

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OTF CELEBRATES THE EXCELLENCE OF TEACHERS AROUND THE WORLD

TORONTO, October 4, 2011 — “Tomorrow we celebrate the excellence of teachers around the world,” states Francine LeBlanc-Lebel, President of the Ontario Teachers’ Federation (OTF). “We are proud to join people in over 100 countries in celebrating the tremendous contribution that teachers make.”

“In Canada, we are celebrating with the theme, ***Teachers: Inspiring students, awakening potential!***” adds LeBlanc-Lebel. “This is what teachers do—they work hard to bring out the very best in students and encourage them to use their talents to excel.”

World Teachers’ Day, marked every year on October 5, was proclaimed in 1994 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to recognize the contribution of teachers to society. The theme for this year’s day is ***Teachers for gender equity***. Despite the teaching profession being made up of largely women, inequality remains an issue in many parts of the world. Although equity might be a part of policies and constitutions, practice is another matter.

“I hope everyone takes a moment tomorrow to thank a teacher,” concludes LeBlanc-Lebel. “It is their day to shine.”

To find out more about World Teachers’ Day, visit www.5oct.org/2011 or www.unesco.org.

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.

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