

# interaction



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## Fellow Teachers,

As all our thoughts are turning towards Spring and the March break, three of our Affiliates have held big meetings this month. AEFO held le Congrès d'orientation extraordinaire 2011, and OSSTF and OEFTA have held their AGM's. I sent my best wishes to each organization for successful meetings.

The next meeting of the OTF Board of Governors is in April. The Spring Board has evolved over the years into one that is very focussed on pension issues. This is the time of year that our pension plan issues its Annual Report, which includes the latest report on the health of the Plan. The OTPPB also holds its annual meeting in co-ordination with our Spring Board. And for the last few years, OTF has hosted a Pension Forum just before the Board Meeting.

Pension issues form one of the major responsibilities for OTF. It is OTF that is the Partner with the Government of Ontario in co-sponsoring the Pension Plan. Much of the energy at Executive and the Board of Governors' meetings is devoted to pension matters. As well, OTF and Affiliate staff apply considerable effort to the pension file.

In this issue of *Interaction*, we are sending you short explanations of the annual activity that we see around our Pension Plan at this time. Each of the articles also contains links which will give you more background.

It is our nature to think about our pension when we see retirement approaching, but the earlier that we pay attention to pension news, the better we can understand the how and why of our Pension Plan.



I would also like to encourage you to read about **C4C21 - Creativity, Community, Citizenship and Critical Thinking in the 21st Century**, the OTF and Affiliate sponsored education symposium. The featured keynote speaker is **Diane Ravitch**, the American education historian and author of *The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How testing and choice are Undermining Education*. We are very excited about bringing together education stakeholders from Ontario, Canada, and beyond our borders to look over and above standardized testing for a bigger version of public education.

Yours in education,

**Rian McLaughlin**  
President



# PENSION

## OTPP

The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan is one of the biggest and best managed pension plans in Canada. The members of the Plan are Ontario's 175,000 elementary and secondary school teachers and 114,000 pensioners. The Plan has assets of over \$100 billion. It is a unique governance model wherein sponsorship of the plan is jointly shared by the Ontario Teachers' Federation and the Government of Ontario.



## FUNDING STATUS

Every year about this time, the OTPP has an independent actuary conduct a valuation of the Plan to determine its financial health. The actuary compares Plan assets to liabilities. For the OTPP, the liabilities are the amount of money set aside now for each pension to be paid for every member of the Plan - active or retired. (The liabilities vary according to economic conditions.)

If the assets match the liabilities, the Plan is fully funded. If the assets are greater than the liabilities, the Plan has a surplus. If the liabilities are greater than the assets, the Plan has a deficit or funding deficiency.

## ANNUAL MEETING

Each year, the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan holds an annual meeting to talk directly with its members about the past year's performance in review. **Jim Leech**, President and CEO, **Eileen Mercier**, Chair of the OTPP Board of Directors, and other senior members of the Plan's administration will present the 2010 Annual Report and will engage in a question and answer period to follow. This year, the meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 7 from 4:45 to 7:00 p.m. It will be held at Arcadian Court, 8th Floor, 401 Bay Street, Toronto. You can register to attend by visiting the OTPP website ([http://www.otpp.com/wps/wcm/connect/otpp\\_en/Home/Annual+Reporting/Annual+Meeting+and+Webcast/](http://www.otpp.com/wps/wcm/connect/otpp_en/Home/Annual+Reporting/Annual+Meeting+and+Webcast/)). You can also watch the meeting via webcasting, or submit a question prior to the meeting online. All of this information is available at the OTPP website.

## FILING

By law, the OTPP must file a valuation indicating its funding status with the Financial Services Commission of Ontario once every three years. There is an option to file more frequently. Filings may trigger action depending on whether the valuation shows the Plan is in balance or has a deficit or a surplus.

The Ontario Teachers' Federation and the Government of Ontario, as joint sponsors of the Plan, are responsible for deciding how to deal with any deficit or surplus.

## A FEW USEFUL PENSION DEFINITIONS

**AS WITH MANY TOPICS IN LIFE, THERE IS A WHOLE RANGE OF LINGUISTIC TERMINOLOGY SPECIFIC TO IT. DEFINITION OF SOME TERMS COMMONLY USED THAT YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL ARE PROVIDED BELOW.**

### *Actuary*

A pension actuary is a financial professional who has specialized training in the mathematics of probability and risk. Pension actuaries apply various assumptions to do mathematical modelling of pension plans.

### *Assets*

Assets include the value of everything the Plan owns: equities, bonds, infrastructure investments, and present value of future contributions made by Plan members and sponsors.

### *Liabilities*

Liabilities include the value of everything the Plan owes: the present value of future benefits and any other financial obligations such as payroll, outstanding debts, and other operating costs.

### *Present Value of Future Benefits*

The present value of future benefits is the dollar value on valuation day of all benefits to be paid out by the Plan until its obligations to the last person hired on valuation day are fulfilled.

### *Present Value of Future Contributions*

The present value of future contributions is the dollar value on valuation day of all contributions made by all active members and the Government between valuation day and the end of the seventy year valuation horizon.



## PENSION FORUM

In conjunction with the Spring Board of Governors' Meeting each year, the Ontario Teachers' Federation holds a pension education session. Because of space limitations, the Pension Forum is open to a maximum of 100 members. **This year's event will take place at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, 475 Yonge Street, Toronto on Thursday, April 7 beginning at 10:00 a.m.**

This year's theme is *Socially Responsible Investing* and the speakers include:

**Murray Gold**, Pension Counsel, Koskie Minsky;

**Eugene Ellmen**, Executive Director, Social Investment Organization;

**Peter Chapman**, Executive Director, SHARE;

**Deborah Allen**, Director, Communications, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan;

**Stephen Kibsey**, Vice-President, La caisse de dépôt de placement du Québec; and

**Tanya Carmichael**, Portfolio Manager, Teachers' Private Capital Division, OTPP.



**THERE ARE A LIMITED NUMBER OF SPACES STILL AVAILABLE. IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND, PLEASE CONTACT OTF BY EMAIL AT [PENSIONFORUM@OTFFEO.ON.CA](mailto:PENSIONFORUM@OTFFEO.ON.CA). THE REGISTRATION FEE IS \$75.**

## C4C21 SYMPOSIUM

### MANY JURISDICTIONS AROUND

**THE** world are reviewing education policy through the lens of what a secondary school graduate should look like in the second decade of the 21st century and beyond. There is growing concern that curriculum has become too narrow; that there is a need to look at fundamental change in how and what students are learning. Ontario is among the leaders in education achievement, but other leaders such as Finland and Singapore are examining and considering a broader view. We believe Ontario should continue to lead in education but in a more collaborative way. We intend to bring together those who are passionate about our students' success and our publicly funded education system.

The Ontario Teachers' Federation and its Affiliates are sponsoring the **C4C21 Symposium** to be held on May 5 and 6, 2011, at the Westin Harbour Castle,



1 Harbour Square, Toronto, Ontario. The themes of the symposium are creativity, critical thinking, citizenship and community in the 21st Century. This symposium will appeal to a broad cross section of education stakeholders from union leaders to parents to policy advisors to classroom teachers to students. The goal of the summit is to initiate a thought-provoking dialogue

among all education partners on the role of these four themes in shaping our education future. Our keynote presenters include **Diane Ravitch**, author of *The Death and Life of the Great American School System*, and **Dennis Shirley**, co-author of *The Fourth Way*. To round out this dialogue, we have included a panel of education researchers who will address what the current research is telling us about the best way to advance learning and teaching. The panel includes **Carl James**, York University, **Diane Farmer**, OISE/UT, **Kate Tilleczek**, University of Prince Edward Island, and will be moderated by **Annie Kidder**, People for Education. **Tom Wujec** will deliver the last keynote about the importance of creativity and imagination. Noted educator, **Penny Milton** will provide a wrap-up summary of the symposium.

You can visit the website by clicking on <https://event-wizard.com/C4C21/0/welcome>.



# A FEW NOTES



## Wisconsin

Teachers and other public sector unions bargaining rights are under attack in Wisconsin.

OTF sent a donation to support these colleagues in their struggle. Individual donations are welcome at <http://51fund.neafoundation.org>.



## Shannen's Dream

We told you in the last edition of *Interaction* about this film. You can order your copy by clicking on <http://www.heartspeak.ca/Heartspeak/Heartspeak.html>.



## Youth and Children's Mental Health

OTF has joined a coalition seeking to raise awareness of the serious need to address issues of mental health issues for children and youth. Watch for announcements about the founding conference taking place in June.

## 2011 OTF Summer Program

Planning is well underway for this year's program—expect many new workshops!

You should watch for the newsletter *OTF Professional Learning* outlining the 2011 OTF Summer Program in early April.



Summer  
program  
2011