

Press Release

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Ontario's teachers deserve a pat on the back

Toronto, October 2, 2014 — “On October 5, World Teachers’ Day, we congratulate Ontario teachers for their outstanding work, both in the classroom and in society,” states Rian McLaughlin, President of the Ontario Teachers’ Federation (OTF).

“The theme of the Canadian Teachers’ Federation (CTF) this year is *It all starts with a qualified teacher*. This speaks to the importance of highly-skilled and dedicated teachers in providing quality education for our youth. Teachers deliver well-rounded education, needed for their students’ futures, in an atmosphere of inclusiveness encouraging all to reach their full potential,” added McLaughlin.

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.

Annually, the Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP) and OTF recognize the excellence of Ontario’s teachers in publicly funded schools with the presentation of the OTIP Teaching Awards for excellence. This year, the outstanding teachers were **Joshua Tellier**, Holy Family French Immersion School, Woodstock in the Beginning Teacher Category; **Nancy Rawlinson**, Davisville Elementary School, Toronto in the Elementary Teacher Category; and **Donna Foulkes**, West Credit Secondary School, Mississauga in the Secondary Teacher Category.

“These teachers are representative of the excellence of all teachers in Ontario’s publicly funded education system. I hope that everyone takes a moment on World Teachers’ Day to thank a teacher,” concluded McLaughlin.

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 publicly funded schools in the province – elementary, secondary, public, Catholic and francophone.

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