

A message from the President

As I begin my second term as President of the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF), I share the concerns of many of you on the status of the school year for you and your students.

Although OTF does not engage in collective bargaining, we are certainly aware of the progress the Affiliates are making in attaining a collective agreement. Hopefully, as the fall unfolds, all the Affiliates will achieve a fair and just collective agreement which benefits you and the students in the classroom. Know that OTF is supportive of you, our members, in your desire to provide quality education for all students.

OTF's role is three-pronged—safeguarding our profession, our pension and public education.

Our Board of Governors approved the appointment of two new Directors to the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP) Board and announcements will be made before their terms officially commence on January 1, 2016. OTF takes its role as the pension partner, with the Government, very seriously. This portfolio consumes much time and effort at OTF; this effort pays off for Ontario's teachers.

We also interact with many professional partners and the Ministry of Education. As each school year starts, so too do OTF's presentations to students in education faculties across Ontario. Faculty students this year will be the first to enter the two-year program.



Francine LeBlanc-Lebel

OTF advocates for public education in many ways. In the next months, we will celebrate World Teachers' Day, attend Word on the Street promoting literacy and reaffirm our support for initiatives such as the Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Literacy Camps and CIVIX (Student Vote). We also will have recognized the winners of the OTIP Teaching Awards, sponsored by OTIP and OTF. Despite the challenges we are presently facing, there is much to celebrate and much to anticipate in the year ahead.

I wish you a rewarding year, both in education and personally, and I look forward to representing your interests in the year ahead.

Yours in education,



Francine LeBlanc-Lebel
OTF President

STUDENT
VOTE



2015

More than half a million students across Canada will be taking part in the 2015 Federal Election.

Check out:
www.studentvote.ca.

Nine fellows welcomed to OTF

OTF bestowed OTF Fellowships on nine individuals at the annual meeting in August.

This year's Fellows all met more than one of the following criteria for a Fellowship:

- outstanding service to OTF;
- outstanding service to education;
- enhancing the image of women in the field of education;
- advocating social issues, particularly as they impact upon women and children;
- furthering the positive image of women in their community; or
- contributing to the elimination of stereotyping in the school program.

Congratulations 2015 Fellows!



L to R: Rhonda Kimberley-Young, OTF Secretary-Treasurer; Nathalie Ladouceur, AEFO; Rian McLaughlin, OTF President; Émilie Johnson, AEFO; Dr. Anne Rodrigue, ETFO; Hugh Mackenzie, Hugh Mackenzie & Associates; Ruby Day, OSSTF; Michael O'Connor, OECTA; Cyndie Jacobs, OSSTF; and Al Cornes, OECTA

A visit from the Danes



OTF welcomed a delegation of educational professionals from Denmark at the OTF office on September 8. The two groups shared ideas on the status of education and teacher professional learning.

Marianne Hoff Anderson, representing the Danish delegation, gifted the book, *Hamlet's Castle and Shakespeare's Elsinore* to OTF.

Farewell & welcome!

OTF welcomes Francine LeBlanc-Lebel as OTF President for 2015-16 and wishes all the best to Rian McLaughlin who ably represented Ontario's teachers in all regards last year.

Several members of the OTF Executive finished their terms: Terry Hamilton (OSSTF), Julie Pauletig (OECTA),

and James Ryan (OECTA). Their contributions were much appreciated.

As OTF says goodbye, it also welcomes new members to the Executive: Diane Dewing (ETFO), Ann Hawkins (OECTA), Chris Cowley (OECTA), and Mike Foulds (OSSTF).



L to R: Marianne Hoff Anderson, OTF President Francine LeBlanc-Lebel and Secretary-Treasurer Rhonda Kimberley-Young

2015-2016 OTF Executive



L to R (back row): Pierre Côté, OSSTF; Sam Hammond, ETFO; Marshall Jarvis, OECTA; Michael Foulds, OSSTF; Paul Elliott, OSSTF; Pierre Léonard, AEFO; and Carol Jolin, AEFO
L to R (front row): Rhonda Kimberley-Young, OTF; Ann Hawkins, OECTA; Francine LeBlanc-Lebel, OTF President; Victoria Réaume, ETFO; Chris Cowley, OECTA; and Diane Dewing, ETFO

A message

from the Secretary-Treasurer



In this issue of *Interaction*, you will see some highlights from our Annual Board of Governors' Meeting (ABG) held in August. OTF's governing structure includes our Executive who meets almost monthly and our Board of Governors who meet three times per year to conduct the business of OTF. One of these meetings is the ABG.

Although governance of OTF may not be very interesting to an observer, it is

fundamental. Aside from the necessary actions—approving budgets, resolutions, reports on the OTPP and auditors, the induction of the new Executive and Board—we always leave time to discuss timely matters, to celebrate individuals and, as teachers, for learning. On celebrating and learning—it is worth noting some events from our recent ABG.

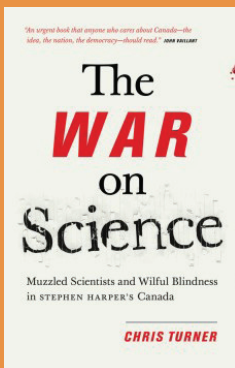
OTF was very excited to receive the Fitzpatrick Award from Frontier College. OTF and the participating Affiliates were recognized for being among the first to provide funding to support then Lieutenant Governor James K. Bartleman's initiative for aboriginal summer literacy camps. These camps were and still are held in remote, northern fly-in communities. Frontier College has done a tremendous job of facilitating these camps which have grown in number from five communities in Ontario to over 80 communities across Canada. Frontier College also presented Bartleman himself with the Companion Award at this meeting.

The evening before the ABG, we held a banquet to award Fellowships to deserving candidates. You will see the 2015 Fellows highlighted in this issue.

In terms of learning, our guest speaker was Chris Turner who authored *The War on Science*. This is truly a recommended read. Teachers put a tremendous value on research, science and evidence as the basis for good public policy. Turner's book demonstrates that the current federal government has systematically dismantled capacity for evidence gathering and research. A must read before October 19!

Hoping you will find this *Interaction* of value and that you have a good school year.

Rhonda Kimberley-Young



The *National Post* on Chris Turner's *The War On Science*: "The War On Science is a tremendously important book and you owe it to your country to read it."

Greystone Books which published Turner's book states that the book is "a passionate and meticulously researched argument against the Harper Government's war on science."

See more at <http://canadaswaronscience.com/>.



Frontier College

OTF proud recipient of the Fitzpatrick Award

Sarah Thompson, Director of Programs at Frontier College, presented the Frontier College Fitzpatrick Award to OTF at its annual meeting in August. The Fitzpatrick award is presented annually to an organization that has shown leadership and exceptional commitment to the cause of literacy and/or substantial financial support to the mission of Frontier College.

OTF has been a steadfast supporter of Frontier College since 2005. In 2005, OTF and Frontier College embarked on a three-year project to engage communities, parents and schools in supporting student success for children and families living in high needs communities across the province. OTF has been a long-standing supporter of the aboriginal summer literacy camps, having contributed over \$300,000 since 2006 to support the program. Collectively, OTF's Affiliates made significant financial contributions to the literacy camps.



James Bartleman receives Companion Award

Sarah Thompson also presented the Companion Award to James Bartleman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario from 2002 to 2007.



The award recognizes a person who has shown leadership and exceptional commitment to the cause of literacy and/or substantial financial and personal support to the mission of Frontier College. Bartleman has been and continues to be an ardent and tireless advocate for literacy in Aboriginal communities.



Want to know more about
Frontier College

Frontier College is a charitable literacy organization which recruits and trains volunteers to deliver literacy programs to children, youth and adults in communities across the country.

You can check out more about their work on the college's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/frontiercollege>. There, you will find a video highlighting the role of the college and also great videos of the Aboriginal summer camps. The college website is www.frontiercollege.ca.

Another successful
Word on the Street

Volunteers at the 2015 OTF booth on Queens Quay were busy meeting and talking with parents, students, teachers and the general public.



Inspiring financial learning



OTF on *social media*



otffeo.on.ca



@otffeo
 @otf_pd



otffeo



youtube.com/OntarioTeachers' Federation