

## LET'S TALK NUMERACY!

Numbers, numbers numbers! They are everywhere. Be it a date, an identification number, a licence plate number, credit card number, security number, budget, everything is related to numbers. As children, we did not worry about numbers but as we became adults, numbers became very important. For the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP), numbers are everything, numbers matter, numbers speak. Allow me to share some information about numbers of the Plan.

**One** President and CEO, Ron Mock, is responsible for OTPP actual administration and investment decisions

**11** members on the OTPP Board, including five directors appointed by each sponsor (OTF & the Government of Ontario) to oversee the management of the pension fund

**One** OTPPB Chair, Jean Turmel, mutually appointed by the sponsors

**1,000** approximate number of employees at OTPP Toronto Head office and investment offices in London and Hong Kong

**One** ultimate goal of investment programs—to earn the best possible returns at an appropriate level of risk

**\$5.3 billion** annual pension payroll

**311,000** members—182,000 active teachers, 129,000 retired pensioners and 70,000 inactive members

**200,000** signed-in members to *iAccess Web*, the secure member website. It gives instant access to your personal pension records, anytime, anywhere

**9.2 out of 10 =** member service rating of OTPP = world class service

**\$154.5 billion** OTPP net assets as of December 31, 2014

**10.2%** annualized rate of return since 1990

**\$77.4 billion** earned above benchmarks since 1990 (with compounding)

**Three** OTPP apps—*BabySteps* to track buyback payments and deadlines; *Classtime* for occasional teachers to track where and when they work, and *Worklog* to assist OTPP retired members in recording days worked for the 50-day re-employment limit



**Francine LeBlanc-Lebel**  
OTF President

**1944** *Teaching Profession Act* establishes the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF), the professional organization for Ontario teachers to which all teachers in Ontario's publicly funded schools are required bylaw to belong

**1989** *Teachers' Pension Act (TPA)* establishes OTPP. Participation is a mandatory and automatic participation for all teachers in OTF

**1991** OTF representing the teachers and the Government of Ontario representing the employers become the co-sponsors of the OTPP with the mandate to safeguard the interests of both retired and active members

Well, that's our pension plan in numbers—making it the largest single-profession plan and striving to be the world's leading pension plan.



## TLLP PARTICIPANTS SHOW OFF THEIR PROJECTS

Congratulations and thank you to the 228 educators who exhibited a total of 111 project results at the Teacher Learning and Leadership Program (TLLP) Sharing the Learning Summit on February 18 and 19, 2016.

For more information on the program, go to [www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/teacher-learning-and-leadership-program/](http://www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/teacher-learning-and-leadership-program/).



## BRITISH DELEGATION



OTF welcomed eight British education leaders in early February to Ontario to share teaching and learning experiences.

## OTF AND TEACHERS HELP SYRIAN REFUGEE STUDENTS

As the Syrian newcomers arrive and register in schools, teachers are learning how to support students with limited English skills and gaps in their education. English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers are supporting classroom teachers and their schools to welcome, register and appropriately place Syrian newcomers in classes. Many schools and educators are now supporting students requiring English as a Second Language (ESL) or English Literacy Development (ELD) programming for the first time.

Schools in more rural parts of the province often have more limited services for newcomers and often are separated by large geographic areas. This makes it challenging for itinerant ESL teachers to effectively support classroom teachers and their new students.

As a result, OTF is pleased to partner with five school boards (Lambton Kent, Bluewater and Grand Erie District



School Boards and Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington and Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Boards) to offer webinars from early March to May to support teachers with strategies to welcome and support the newcomer English language learners. These webinars are for any teacher from K-12 with a student who speaks a language other than English at home and requires additional supports to participate in the age-appropriate curriculum.

You can view these webinars on the OTF Connects Past Webinars and Resources page: [www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/otf-connects/resources/](http://www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/otf-connects/resources/).

## IMPACT OF POVERTY IN OUR SCHOOLS

The OTF Curriculum Forum, at its annual retreat this winter, focused on fostering greater understanding of the impacts of poverty in elementary and secondary schools in Ontario. Participants explored the findings gleaned from Ontario-focused, in-school research conducted by Darlene Ciuffetelli Parker, Associate Professor with the Faculty of Education at Brock University. In addition, Jim Giles, Executive Assistant at the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, facilitated an interactive session which provided practical strategies to mitigate the effects of poverty. The forum was rounded out by sessions with two local, Barrie grass-roots organizations: the Barrie Food Bank and the Women and Children's Shelter of Barrie. Based on participants' feedback, the retreat offered a powerful professional learning opportunity.

Learn more about the OTF Curriculum Forum: [www.otffeo.on.ca/en/services/curriculum-forum/](http://www.otffeo.on.ca/en/services/curriculum-forum/).





# A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

## Spring ushers in its own seasons at OTF: pensions and professional learning

Each year, teachers anxiously await the news of how their pension plan performed in the past year. The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP) releases the financial report for 2015 at the start of April. Last year, you will recall, that there was a surplus allowing OTF and the Government to file and improve the level of conditional inflation being paid to retired teachers. This spring, we will again consider the funded status of the Plan and the actions to take. Members will be informed once that decision is taken.

But that is only one part of the pension story. OTPP shares a wealth of information at its annual meeting on April 7th. Teachers are welcome to attend in person or online. For more information or to register, go to [www.otpp.com/373](http://www.otpp.com/373). I cannot recommend these meetings highly enough. Your pension is a significant asset and learning more about how it is managed is not only valuable, but also very interesting.

Also on April 7, OTF will host its annual Pension Forum, an educational opportunity for leaders from OTF, the Affiliates, the Government and others to learn about pensions in general and our Plan in particular. The caliber of past speakers has been tremendous and this year's program will be no exception.

Another spring activity at OTF is planning for professional learning. Our staff is presently putting together a summer institute program, along with a technology conference as well as receiving and processing teachers' AQ subsidy applications. We are pleased that we received financial support from the Ministry of Education for these activities.

As with all our professional learning opportunities, these will follow the principles which are so important to the profession—voluntary, self-directed, in areas of demand by teachers, delivered by teachers for teachers, and of direct relevance to daily teaching practice, needs and the Ontario curriculum.

Although it can seem that spring will never get here, it often passes too quickly so try to savour the season—and be sure to watch for OTF news on pensions and professional learning!

Rhonda Kimberley-Young



## TARGET PREVENTION, AVOID BLAME GAME

## WHSC 2016 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

The Workers Health and Safety Centre (WHSC) is calling on Ontario high school seniors to expand their health and safety awareness by applying for a post-secondary scholarship.

Applicants for the 2016 WHSC Student Scholarship contest must write an essay or create a poster exploring an existing or emerging occupational health or safety hazard. Submissions must also explain why and how employers should prevent or control exposures based on the hierarchy of control.

Students must reside in Ontario and be in their first year of full or part-time studies leading to a degree, diploma or certificate from a publicly-funded Ontario college or university. Entrants must not have graduated high school prior to summer of 2015. Up to six candidates will be selected and will be eligible to receive a \$1,200 scholarship.

**Deadline: Friday, June 10, 2016**

Want to know more about the 2016 WHSC Student Scholarship? Go to [www.whsc.on.ca/Resources/For-Young-Workers/Scholarship-Bursaries](http://www.whsc.on.ca/Resources/For-Young-Workers/Scholarship-Bursaries).



[www.otffeo.on.ca](http://www.otffeo.on.ca)



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## PARENT ENGAGEMENT

### *A guide to working with parents and guardians*

The website is a complete guide to working with parents and guardians. It includes short vignettes, podcasts, practical tips and other helpful resources for teachers. Also, all publicly funded schools in Ontario have received a copy of the booklet, *Parent Engagement: Supporting Elementary and Secondary Teachers Working with Parents and Guardians*. [www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/parent-engagement/](http://www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/parent-engagement/)

## OTF CONNECTS WEBINARS

The focus of this year's program is to support teachers in the effective use of technology in the classroom, in gaining skills for instruction in mathematics and in delivering the new and revised curricula. The Spring schedule is crammed full of rich, diverse and highly relevant topics. Browse the full calendar ([www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/otf-connects/calendar/](http://www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/otf-connects/calendar/)). Find recordings and resources from previous webinars: [www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/otf-connects/resources/](http://www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/otf-connects/resources/).



## PLAY! A SYMPOSIUM

Are you an educator, a director, a social worker? Do you work with children and youth? Are you a student or researcher? Then you should consider participating in PLAY! A Symposium in Stratford, Ontario, from June 10-12, 2016.

PLAY! is an international celebration of the power and magic of play, involving community members, presenters and delegates from around the globe and around the corner.

The symposium is organized with the support of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF).

"The Ontario Teachers' Federation is pleased to be able to contribute to the 2016 World Festival of Children's Theatre," stated Francine LeBlanc-Lebel, OTF President. "It's a wonderful opportunity for students and teachers to stage their world and share it with others through the arts."

Check out the PLAY! website for the list of internationally-acclaimed presenters and the full program of workshops and hands-on arts activities. [www.playsymposium.com](http://www.playsymposium.com)

## COMING SOON!

### *Summer Institutes 2016*

OTF and Subject/Division Associations will provide three-day intensive summer institutes in several locations throughout the province during July and August of 2016.

Information will be available soon on the OTF website ([www.otffeo.on.ca](http://www.otffeo.on.ca)).

### *Pedagogy b4 Technology: Supporting Learning with Digital Tools Conference, August 24-26, 2016*

This large-scale conference will be open to OTF members at all different levels of proficiency with digital tools.

Registration for this three-day information and computer technology conference will begin in May. Check the OTF website for updates.

### *Teacher Learning Co-op (TLC)*

OTF will again be offering opportunities for more than 100 TLC teams of members to become involved in this professional learning program. TLC is a teacher-directed and collaborative inquiry approach which provides funding, release time and ongoing support for teachers who are interested in participating. TLC brochures will be available in your school soon.

For more information on TLC or to view the results of last year's projects, check the OTF website at [www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/teacher-learning-co-op-tlc/](http://www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/teacher-learning-co-op-tlc/).

## WORLD FESTIVAL OF CHILDREN'S THEATRE



### *A first for North America*

Stratford is the host for the 14th edition of this renowned children's theatre festival. It is the first time the festival will be hosted in North America.

From June 5-14, 300 young thespians between the ages of seven and 15 (22 troupes from 20 countries) will

participate in performances, workshops and academic events that explore the festival theme, "My World, Our Planet."

Information about tickets, venues and schedules are available at the festival website: [www.wfct.ca](http://www.wfct.ca).