

Colleagues,

My Irish grandmother always said that uncertain weather was a sign of unsettled things in the world. Indeed, the spring of 2015 with its blustery winds and hesitant temperatures seems to have proven her to be correct. Many things in the world of education have yet to settle and we offer our solidarity with our Affiliates in their work to secure collective agreements for their respective members.

In this issue, we will highlight our ongoing work on your pension. We will also share information from some of our other partners that may be of interest to you; for instance, the Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP) offers the Edvantage Discount Program free to all OTF members. Campaign VOX (Hear My Voice) provides resources and supports for teachers across Canada for the 2015 federal election. The Canadian Teachers' Federation developed and coordinates this campaign.

Reflecting on this past year, I will always be appreciative of the opportunity to have represented Ontario's teaching profession at many, varied events. Early in March, I attended the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in NYC to promote gender equality and universal education for girls. Later this spring, I was honoured to be a delegate to the International Summit on the Teaching Profession held for the first time on Canadian soil. And soon, I will be attending the National Presidents' Conference in Yellowknife, NWT. Wherever I have had the privilege to go, you can rest assured that the teachers of Ontario are highly-regarded and respected for not only their professionalism, but also their work in social justice.

The winds of change continue to shape our landscape as my second and final term at OTF comes to an end in August, but I wish to humbly thank you for graciously allowing me the exceptional opportunity to work on behalf of our profession. I will always hold this work and these times dear. We never know for certain what lies ahead, but I remain determined, nonetheless, to hope all OTF members will dedicate the summer ahead to rejuvenation and the building of good memories with family and friends.

Yours in education,  
Rian McLaughlin