

Colleagues,

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.

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