

President's Message, November 2015

When I look back on this past year, I am reminded of the difficulties that teachers and educational workers in public education in Ontario have faced. It has been a most difficult and challenging year for you and, although it is improving, the struggles for many of you continue. I applaud your resolution in gaining a fair settlement which benefits the students in our classrooms.

On November 11, I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of Ontario's teachers in memory of those who had sacrificed their lives for our country and, at the same time, I wished for peace in our world. I am appalled and saddened by the events which have occurred in the world. Terrorist attacks have brought home to us the horror and grief which such actions cause. The plight of refugees who seek a safe haven from the horrors of civil war and terrorism remind us of our need for compassion. On Canadian soil, to date, we have been fortunate not to suffer the loss caused by terrorist actions on civilian lives. We can only imagine the pain and suffering which others are enduring.

Canadians have always been a peaceloving nation—we have always strived to be peace keepers, both at home and abroad. Our newly elected government is promising to be responsive to Canadians' desire for peace and also to give aid to Keep current on OTF news and professional learning! Sign up for our OTF News others in dire circumstances. Let us hope that this spirit prevails.

This time of the year, we celebrate that desire for peace and good will. I encourage people of all faiths and beliefs to take the time to appreciate the security that living in Canada brings; but even more so, to reflect on the difficulties and horrors that others in the world face on a daily basis and give support when able. The holidays allow us to come together as families, as friends and as communities—to celebrate, to share and to consider and help those less fortunate.

I wish you, your family and friends a peaceful and festive holiday and may the future be bright!

Yours in education,
Francine LeBlanc-Lebel