

Message from the President

October 2016

Colleagues,

Wow, what a start to the school year! We had heat waves, bus shortages, math scores, and a pension valuation filed—just to name a few events. And through it all, you were there—on the front lines of Ontario's education system.

“The key to raising achievement is to recognize that teaching and learning is a relationship.” Ken Robinson, *Creative Schools: Revolutionizing Education from the Ground Up*. This is just one “gem” I gathered when I represented Ontario teachers at the founding summit of the Atlantic Rim Collaboratory (ARC). ARC aims to establish a global group of educational systems that advances values such as equity, excellence, wellbeing, inclusion, democracy and human rights for all students within high-quality, professionally-run systems. OTF, along with teacher association representatives from other systems, participated in this Summit to ensure that the voice of the teaching profession was present.

Together, we made the point that the primary drivers of change in any system of education are the teachers.

They must be involved in the discussion leading to change and respected as professionals. We also ensured that the next ARC will include the teacher associations as equal partners.

The reason we are lauded as one of the best public education systems in the world is you. You make it all possible.

My first public duty after being elected was to welcome over 200 educators to the Pedagogy & Technology Conference in August. It was inspiring to see so many professionals engaging in interactive professional development during their 'summer off'. And they weren't the only ones. This summer, OTF, with the support of the Ministry of Education, offered a variety of professional learning events, Summer Institutes, that focused on the revised curriculum, financial literacy, mathematics, and using information and communication technology (ICT). You too can participate in the professional learning offered by educators for educators through OTF by perusing the resources on the Learning page of the OTF website: www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/

Looking forward to a great school year,

Mike Foulds

President

Ontario Teachers' Federation