

## a message from the **PRESIDENT**

Welcome to Spring! As I write this, I must say, "Where has the winter gone?" It seems only yesterday I was wishing you a joyous holiday season.

Life at OTF has been very busy over the last few months. We were pleased to have the Minister of Education at our Winter Board of Governors' Meeting. We hosted a Curriculum Forum Retreat focused on Truth and Reconciliation at Kempenfelt Bay. As well, our inaugural conference on teacher education attended by teacher education liaison committees from the province's Faculties of Education was very successful. And meetings with the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan have kept us busy.

On March 2, 2017, I presented at the meeting of the Governing Council of the College of Teachers. Speaking on behalf of the Affiliate presidents and the teachers of Ontario, I raised concerns about proposed Bylaw amendments under consideration by the Council which threatened to diminish fairness to teachers.

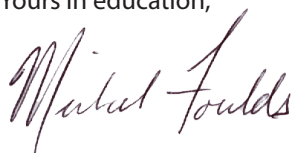
As you know, the *Protecting Students Act* came into force on December 5, 2016. The Act made some significant changes to the transparency of discipline cases at the College of Teachers. Presently, the College's Bylaws require the removal of a teacher reprimand from the public register after three years have passed. Discipline Committees, however, have discretion to require that some decisions remain public for a longer period to address more serious transgressions.

The motion being considered by the Council, however, would have required that all decisions, and terms, conditions and limitations (TCLs) applying to teachers who were reprimanded remain public indefinitely. This was not recommended by Justice LeSage nor was it supported by the Government when the College asked it to modify the legislation in this way.

I argued that, should the Bylaw amendment pass and a notation permanently exist on the College's public register for a teacher, it could forever tarnish that teacher's reputation for what may have been a minor offence. It would also contradict the rehabilitative nature of discipline itself.

Councillors clearly heard our concerns and defeated those proposed amendments. I am pleased that the councillors **agreed with OTF and the Affiliates** that the public interest must be balanced with due process and fairness to teachers.

Yours in education,



**Mike Foulds**  
OTF President



CTF delegation in support of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) at the Nova Scotia Legislature. Ontario Presidents Mike Foulds, Sam Hammond and Rémi Sabourin with the CTF Executive

## Joining the Circle

A new multimedia resource for the classroom

Le Centre ontarien de prévention des agressions (COPA), with funding from the Indigenous Education Office at the Ontario Ministry of Education, has released *Joining the Circle*, a multimedia toolkit, including a series of short animated films available in six Indigenous languages, French and English, and closed-captioning. Each film is accompanied by a discussion guide and related tools to enhance understanding of Indigenous history, culture and reality, along with strategies to help indigenize our schools.

To order the *Joining the Circle* toolkit (free of charge), go to the COPA eBoutique ([infocopa.com/products/73-joining-the-circle-toolkit](http://infocopa.com/products/73-joining-the-circle-toolkit)).



Indspire is a charitable organization that is dedicated to raising funds to deliver programs that provide tools for indigenous peoples.

The Institute is a virtual resource centre that serves educators, communities, and other stakeholders in improving Kindergarten to Grade 12 success for Indigenous youth. It shares successful practices, educator resources, nurturing capacity, student resources, webinars and a professional learning community for educators of Indigenous students to network.

**Indspire.ca**

“Out of past, I make truth for a future”

The theme of the OTF Curriculum Forum Retreat in February at the Kempenfelt Conference Centre was “In the Spirit of Reconciliation: Moving Forward Together.”

It focused on supporting participants to take actions connected to the education-focused recommendations

of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Retreat participants explored the theme with the support of Laurie Minor (Wilfrid Laurier University), Rachel Mishenene (ETFO), Marjorie Paleshi (OSSTF) and Giidaakunadaad (Nancy) Rowe-Henry, a knowledge-keeper from the Mississaugas of the (New) Credit First Nation. In addition, participants were treated to a powerful reading, by cast members from Roseneath Theatre, of Drew Hayden Taylor's play, *Spirit Horse*, an adaption of Greg Banks' Irish play, *Tir Na N'Og*.

Among other teachings and learnings, participants explored the legacies, not least of which is the inter-generational trauma that stemmed from the residential school system in Canada. They were encouraged to consider the importance of establishing or re-building strong connections and relationships with local First Nations communities, including acknowledging the traditional territories of First Nations on which non-Indigenous people live and work.



Among the recommendations from the learning facilitators:

- understand that identity-related terminology (such as First Nations, Aboriginal, or Indigenous) are not necessarily used uniformly or consistently across Indigenous groups and even from person to person, so ask each Indigenous person with whom they interact how they would like to be addressed;
- acknowledge that diversity exists within First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities, not just among them;
- recognize the need to de-colonize the history of Canada before contact, not just prior to, or subsequent to Confederation;
- appreciate that Indigenous people are contemporary and dynamic peoples with a rich heritage and past.

Based on formal and anecdotal feedback, retreat participants emerged better equipped to be change-agents in their respective Associations in the quest for truths and reconciliation.

“Out of past, I make truth for a future”  
Beth Brant, Mohawk Trail, qtd. in  
Thomas King's *The Inconvenient Indian*  
[2012]: 249



## a message from the **SECRETARY-TREASURER**

Teachers may have seen reports about the Auditor General's (AG) opinion regarding pension accounting for the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP). Clearly, the AG and the Government have different views about accounting for pension surpluses and deficits. Ontario governments have accounted for pension assets and deficits in a consistent way over many, many years; however, the AG questioned that methodology. An Expert Panel recently sided with the Government's interpretation.

I took several economics classes at university so I'm familiar with the joke that if you want three economic projections, just ask two economists. There are similar jokes about other experts – meteorologists come to mind. To some extent, the same is true in the accounting field.

Pension accounting and pension funding valuations are complicated. Funding valuations are done on several bases: solvency, wind-up and going concern. Actuaries calculate funding valuations in accordance with actuarial standards of the profession and regulatory requirements.

The OTPP uses both internal and external actuaries. OTF and the Government have independent actuaries who work with

them as well. But, it would be a mistake to confuse pension **funding** with pension **accounting**. Standards which apply to accounting and actuarial calculations are very different. OTF has no role in how the Government accounts for the Plan on its books.

OTF's role, with our Government partner, is to decide how to deal with funding surpluses and deficits. We share equally in risks and rewards. Any dispute between the AG and the Government has no impact on that process and relationship. The Government and OTF have worked prudently and co-operatively filing successive valuations in good times and bad. That will continue to be the case as we look at 2016 results for the Plan this spring. Stay tuned.

**Rhonda Kimberley-Young**  
OTF Secretary-Treasurer

## OTPP Annual Meeting

The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP) Annual Meeting takes place on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at The Carlu in Toronto from 4:45 to 7:00 pm.

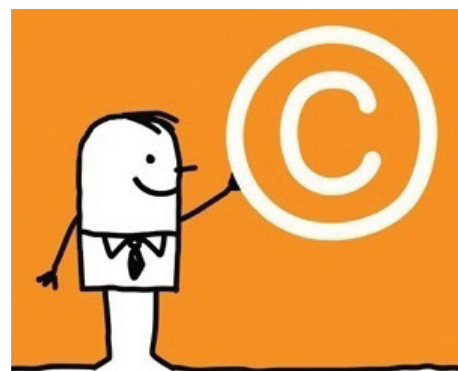
Pension plan members are invited to the annual meeting of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan.



Registration deadline is April 3. If you cannot attend the meeting, you are welcome to watch the live webcast or catch it later.

All the details are available at

[www.otpp.com/corporate/annual-reporting/annual-meeting-reg](http://www.otpp.com/corporate/annual-reporting/annual-meeting-reg).



## Copyright Decision Tool

The Copyright Decision Tool helps teachers decide whether they can use print materials, artistic works or audiovisual materials without getting copyright permission.

[www.copyrightdecisiontool.ca](http://www.copyrightdecisiontool.ca)



# summer's coming...

and lots of OTF learning opportunities

## Summer Institutes 2017:

July and August

**Teaching Math Through Problem-Solving:  
Classroom Friendly Strategies  
Conference:** July 5 & 6

**Pedagogy b4 Technology "2"  
Conference:** August 23 - 25

*Look for posters coming to your school soon.  
Check the OTF website ( [www.otffeo.on.ca](http://www.otffeo.on.ca) ) for  
registration dates and more information.*



Developed by teachers for teachers, OTF's free professional learning webinar program provides OTF members easy-to-access PD in the comfort of their home on a computer or mobile device. These online 90-minute interactive webinars are offered from 7:30 to 9:00 pm on weekdays.

The Spring program supports teachers in the areas of mathematics, Kindergarten and technology. [www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/otf-connects/calendar/](http://www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/otf-connects/calendar/).

Unable to attend a live webinar? Search the OTF Connects recorded webinars for a wide variety of topics such as technology, mathematics, Kindergarten, curriculum, financial literacy, environmental education, exploring inquiry, media and digital literacy and violence prevention.

All are available at [www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/otf-connects/resources/](http://www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/otf-connects/resources/).

## Teacher Resources

The OTF website features a page which is designed to assist and support educators in the classroom.

Useful Links contains hundreds of links to websites of value to educators. The websites are categorized into topics to help you focus on your interests.

Lesson Plans contains lessons developed by teachers in several of OTF's professional development projects.

[www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/teacher-resources](http://www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/teacher-resources)



The Inspire Financial Learning (IFL) program is supported by the Ontario Teachers' Federation. The IFL program equips teachers, students, parents and guardians with unbiased, independent and effective tools and strategies to help them navigate the complex world of finances and also supports them in making responsible financial choices.

[www.inspirefinanciallearning.ca](http://www.inspirefinanciallearning.ca)

## Safe@School

The Safe@School website offers useful training components designed to assist teachers in addressing bullying as well as promoting equity and inclusive education. Specifically, the site includes

three Professional Learning Modules: Equity and Inclusive Education, Bullying Prevention, and Parents and Guardians: Partners in Prevention.

[www.safeatschool.ca](http://www.safeatschool.ca)



**OTF's hidden gem**  
Parry Sound Campground

## Looking for a place to camp this summer?

Try OTF's campground on picturesque Quinn Lake near Parry Sound. Lovely grassy meadows provide clean, spacious campsites with easy access to a beautiful lake bordered by a mixed forest teeming with wildlife. Nature trails and quiet country roads provide ample opportunity for walking. The lake is ideal for swimming, fishing, canoeing, or sailboarding. It's a safe place for kids, with lots of grass, sand and a roped-off beach. Space is set aside for baseball,

horseshoes and volleyball, and there are several golf courses within driving distance.

Camping is available to all OTF members and education workers in publicly funded schools - principals, secretaries, educational assistants, and caretakers.

**For more information, go to  
[www.otffeo.on.ca](http://www.otffeo.on.ca) and Parry Sound  
Campground under Services.**