

A message from the President, October 2017

As I begin my term as President, the 2017-18 school year has the potential to bring great change and great opportunities to our province and our profession. In June, Ontario goes to the polls to elect a new government and as in years past, teachers will protect the interests of our students and our profession. It remains vital that we work to elect candidates who will support and enhance our publicly funded school system.

While on the topic of elections, it is also an election year for the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT). Teachers have continued concerns about the mandate and the overreach of the College. This election provides members the opportunity to question the candidates and ask them to commit to ensuring the College stays within its legislated mandate.

In September, I attended the Atlantic Rim Collaboratory (ARC) in Dublin, Ireland at which education stakeholders from North Atlantic nations met to discuss current issues that we share. This was the second annual summit that brought together internationally-renowned education researchers as well as representatives of the teaching profession and government. The Ontario Minister of Education's Chief of Staff, the Deputy Minister of Education and I represented Ontario.

The focus of ARC this year was the new "wellbeing" initiatives being promoted by various governments, including ours. All teachers monitor and care about their students' wellbeing each day but our focus at OTF will be to ensure the teacher's voice is heard on the implementation of any new initiatives coming from the Ministry.

On a personal note, it will be an honour to serve the teachers of Ontario over the next year. Throughout my career, it has always been reassuring that organizations such as OTF have been standing behind me to ensure teachers have a voice on issues important to our profession.

Teachers are at the heart of every school and OTF stands behind you 100 percent. I look forward to representing your interests and wish you a very rewarding school year.