

A message from the OTF President

Colleagues,

It has been a hot summer in many ways. Between the weather and the decisions made by our new Ontario Government, there have been some very stress-filled days - and the school year has just begun.

OTF has your back. It is our mandate and pleasure to support the work that you do as teachers. Some of the actions we have taken to date are meetings with government staff, conversations with the Ontario College of Teachers and media interviews. We take our job as advocates for the profession very seriously and ensure that we work closely with your Affiliate to deliver a clear and consistent message.

Already, I have had the opportunity to meet our associate members at Faculties of Education across the province. I attended the Atlantic Rim Collaboratory Summit on Education where OTF had the opportunity, through Education International, to speak about our system along with Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Norway, Iceland and Finland. There is deep respect for your work as Ontario teachers within the international community. In October, I look forward to

visiting a fly-in school in Fort Hope. As OTF acknowledges our 75th year, it will be wonderful to touch base with the partners that have made the Lieutenant Governor's Summer Literacy Camps so successful and to meet the teachers and students in this remote community.

The strength of teachers lies in our ability to collaborate. We share our knowledge, our observations and our skills with each other. OTF does this also and, this year, our education networks will need to be strong to ensure that the teacher voice is heard, and that professional judgement is acknowledged. The job may not be easy, but the work is worthwhile.

In the meantime, make sure that you look after yourself. Your good physical and mental health set the tone of your classroom. Sleep well, eat



well, exercise and do something fun every day. This is a noble profession. You change lives. You open minds to a world most never knew existed. Stand proud.

Yours in education,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Diane Dewing".

Diane Dewing
President

LAST PRINT ISSUE OF *INTERACTION*

OTF is mailing its last print issue of *Interaction* to your office. We have, for the past several years, mailed 10 copies to each bargaining unit office with the expectation that you will share these as you see fit.

In the future, *Interaction* will be forwarded to you in digital form only. As well, the issues will be shared in digital format through the OTF mailing lists, website and social media.

Congratulations 2018 OTF Fellowship recipients

Annually, OTF awards up to 10 Fellowships to deserving individuals who have made outstanding contributions to OTF, publicly-funded education, and/or advocating on social issues.

The Fellowship may be presented to a current member, past member, past employee, Affiliate executive member or non-member. Each Affiliate may nominate up to two (2) candidates for Fellowship in the Affiliate member category and may, additionally, recommend a candidate or candidates for Fellowship in the non-member category.

The Fellowships are presented at the Annual Board of Governors' meeting in August.



Left to right: Lori Foote, OSSTF; Carol Jolin, AEFO; Monica Rusnak, ETFO; Paul Anthony, non-member; Pierre Léonard, AEFO; Victoria Hunt, OECTA; Liz Stuart, OECTA; Colleen Lee, ETFO; and Paul Caccamo, OSSTF



Teachers and copyright

Fair dealing decision tool

This Fair Dealing Decision Tool helps teachers decide whether "fair dealing" permits classroom use of print materials, artistic works, or audiovisual materials without first getting copyright permission. The tool helps teachers determine whether a specific intended classroom use is allowed by the *Fair Dealing Guidelines*.

fairdealingdecisiontool.ca/DecisionTool



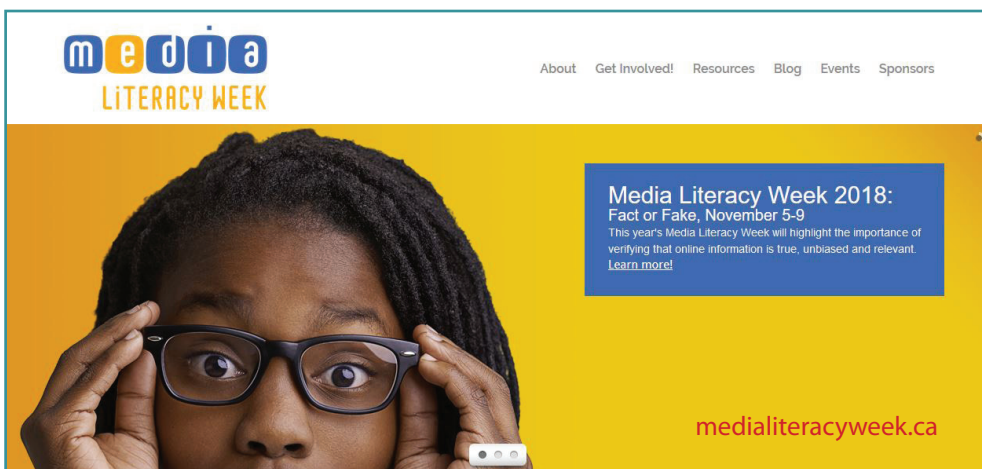
A news literacy initiative

NewsWise aims to help students understand the role of journalism in a democracy and develop the habits and skills to find and filter information online. CIVIX has developed this website in partnership with the Canadian Journalism Foundation.

The spread of mis- and disinformation online is one of the most urgent issues facing democracies today and being able to determine what is fact or fiction has become an essential skill of citizenship in the digital age.

Access lesson plans, videos, and more.

www.newswise.ca.



A message from the OTF Secretary-Treasurer



Rhonda Kimberley-Young

Before school even started, the Ontario Government launched a website for parents to “share concerns about the curriculum being taught.” In effect, the website, “for the parents” allows anyone to anonymously identify the school board, the name of the school and use up to 1,000 words to describe their complaint – like Twitter on steroids! The parent (or alleged parent) is not required to identify her/himself. The website promises all complaints will be sent to the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) once a month.

The same site has a second link in case the parent has “another issue” – that link takes them directly to the OCT complaint page. The message here is that any concern any parent might have about education, aside from curriculum, must be a complaint against a teacher.

The label “anonymous snitch line” immediately hit the media, not only from members of the profession or federations, but from supporters of teachers and public education. To lay open every member of the teaching profession in Ontario to public, anonymous vilification is as astounding as it is repugnant. Imagine this being done to doctors, nurses, lawyers or police officers.

Legitimate complaints deserve legitimate investigation and consideration. There is already a process for that through the OCT. Due process and fair treatment are something teacher federations fought for and achieved; they are basic rights in our society.

It is more than ironic that the backdrop to all this is the concerns of students, teachers, trustees, health care practitioners, social workers and most parents that the old (now reinstated) HPE curriculum diminished the rights of the LGBTQ youth community and put all children at risk because there is no explicit focus on teaching consent and internet safety embedded in the curriculum.

So, a website eliciting anonymous complaints against teachers and ignoring their basic rights seems to show a philosophy exactly the opposite of what led to the public criticism of the curriculum repeal in the first place.

South Korean teachers visit OTF

In September, OTF welcomed the second South Korean delegation of 21 educators to our offices in Toronto. A Korean delegation also met with OTF in August. The purpose of the delegation’s visit was to learn more about the secondary credit-based system in Ontario.

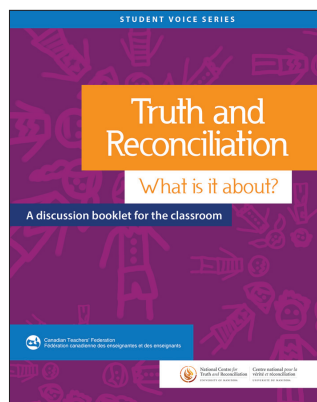
South Korea is planning to introduce a credit-based secondary system in 2022 and Ontario was one, among other international jurisdictions, the delegation was visiting as part of its research phase. Through a translator, staff from OTF and the OECTA and OSSTF Affiliates, along with a representative of the Ontario School Counsellors’ Association and Ontario Guidance Leadership Association shared the Ontario perspective about both the benefits and challenges of a credit-based system as well as highlighted some of the



pathways initiatives put in place over the past 15 years to support student engagement, retention and graduation rates. In turn, we learned more about the South Korean education system.

OTF always embraces the opportunity to share the exemplary contributions of Ontario teachers – the backbone of our world class public education system – with others from around the world.

Truth and Reconciliation - A discussion booklet for the classroom (Grades 5 to 12)



The *Student Voice Series* is a resource to support discussions about complex societal issues using the voice of students. In this booklet, you will find student responses to questions and classroom discussions, residential school survivor statements, visuals, and key information from the reports of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Free online lesson plans and discussion questions on Truth and Reconciliation are available for registered imagineaction (a social justice program of the Canadian Teachers' Federation) teachers.

If you're not yet registered as an Imagineaction teacher, visit www.imagine-action.ca and follow the instructions. It's simple and free.



As the voice of Agriculture in the classrooms of Ontario, AgScape provides factual, balanced, curriculum-linked food literacy programs and resources to Ontario's educators and students.

factual and non-biased information to ensure a balanced presentation of facts.

Lesson plans and resources in several subject areas for Grades 1–12.

All AgScape classroom programs and resources are designed to reflect core values in providing

agscape.ca/resources



Social media



otffeo.on.ca



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@OTFpresFEO
@otf_pd



otffeo



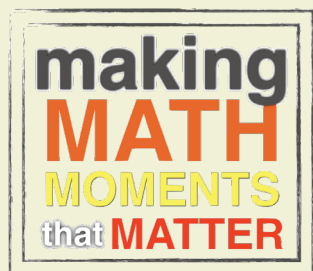
bit.ly/OTFFEOyoutube

News

bit.ly/OTFFEOnews-nouvelles

Learning

bit.ly/OTFFEOlearn-apprend



Are you on a quest to empower your students to become resilient problem solvers in your mathematics classroom, but the varying levels of readiness make it feel impossible to reach every student?

Learn how to use a three-part framework for building easy-to-plan and fun-to-deliver lessons that kids will not only love, but also learn from, regardless of their level of readiness!

In the *Making Math Moments That Matter* video series, two Ontario teachers, Jon Orr and Kyle Pearce, have set out to show that we can reach all students in our math classes, regardless of the range of skills students to bring to our math classrooms. This video series is the culmination of a Teacher Learning and Leadership Program (TLLP) project which Jon and Kyle pursued.

Powerful moments can be created and it isn't by chance. We can learn how to make

memorable math moments for our students and build their fluency in math and their resilience to solve challenging math problems.

The Ontario Teachers' Federation is proud to share this free four-part video series, *Making Math Moments That Matter*.

To watch the first video in the series, go to makemathmoments.com.

Be sure to register to be notified when each new lesson is released.