

A message from the OTF President

Colleagues,

Hopefully, the tribulations of flu season, time change and first snow have left you unscathed. No doubt you have been busy! We have been too.

Teachers understand the importance of building relationships. Connections with our students and our communities ensure deeper understanding. OTF has made lots of connections this fall through events such as

- a visit to Eabametoong, home of one of our Lieutenant Governor's Summer Literacy Camps,
- the People for Education *Making Connections* conference,
- the Children's Mental Health Ontario conference, and
- a symposium on the Importance of Indigenous Education in Ontario.

One event I particularly enjoyed was Indspire's National Gathering for Indigenous Education. OTF stepped forward as a "Workshop Sponsor," making it possible for me to meet the many OTF members present. The voice of teachers was strong. Our schools are charged with educating students, in age-appropriate ways, about residential schools, treaties and the historical and contemporary

contributions of Canada's Indigenous people. While this is not easy work, many resources exist. Step forward and begin this journey.

Protecting your pension, working with your Affiliates and participating as part of the Canadian Teachers' Federation remains high on our agenda. The only area missing is interaction with our provincial government. To date, there has been little meaningful discussion about supporting teachers.

Despite our current government's lack of commitment to education

supports, your commitment inspires other Ontarians to step up to the plate. Ontario's future is in our classrooms today. If we are serious about building a strong Ontario, it must start with our schools.

Remember, governments come and governments go but the influence of a teacher is forever. We will prevail.

Yours in education,



Diane Dewing
President



A time of remembrance and gratitude

On November 11, teachers joined millions in remembrance of those who have given their lives so that Canadians can live in freedom and peace.

Diane Dewing, OTF President, proudly laid a wreath on behalf of teachers in Ontario's publicly funded schools at the Ceremony of Remembrance at Queen's Park.



Where to from here?

First class professional learning programs

Since 2015-16, the Ontario Teachers' Federation has supported many professional learning opportunities for members through agreements with the Ministry of Education. The Teacher Learning Co-op (TLC) program sponsored more than 290 projects involving 1,018 members in approximately 30 school boards. TLC teams of two to five members participated in projects to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom. Click on [TLC reports](#) to view these projects.

OTF Connects was OTF's online interactive webinar program developed by teachers for teachers. These webinars allowed teachers to learn, share and collaborate with other teachers across the province. The recorded webinars are still available at [OTF Connects webinars](#).

Since 2014, OTF has held nine large-scale conferences providing outstanding professional learning opportunities for more than 1,200 members. These included

Making the links: Promoting wellbeing in our schools; Pedagogy b4 technology; Teaching Math through problem-solving; and Making more than cents out of financial literacy. Overwhelmingly, the feedback was extremely favourable.

Since 2015-16, OTF has supported more than 110 Summer Institutes focusing on math, ICT, Kindergarten, revised/general curriculum, wellbeing, and financial literacy. With an average attendance of 22 members, OTF served more than 2,000 enthusiastic educators through these workshops.

The caliber of these professional learning opportunities is reflected in the consistent positive feedback by a very discerning membership. OTF used Ministry of Education funding to optimize every opportunity and for positive outcomes for teachers. The clear message OTF has received from its members demands that these opportunities continue.

TLLP internationally recognized

For more than 12 years, OTF and its four Affiliates engaged in the Teacher Learning and Leadership Program (TLLP), an extensive and high-impact partnership with the Ministry of Education. The TLLP has been lauded locally, nationally and internationally for its far-reaching achievements. The learnings from the project have been shared with many jurisdictions and several countries have implemented adapted versions. Education guru, Ann Lieberman, has called the TLLP, "the best example of a successful professional learning and leadership program." Recently, the publisher of the TLLP book, *Teacher Learning and Leadership: Of, By and For Teachers*, announced plans to translate the book for China. Significantly, the project is recognized as having been instrumental in shaping education policy on professional learning and collaborative professionalism in Ontario.

More important, there were thousands of Ontario teachers who benefitted directly and indirectly from the project. OTF continues to receive reports from TLLP graduates regarding the tremendous value of the program, citing their personal and professional growth, as well as recognition by their peers, system administrators and policy makers for being teacher leaders.

TLLP's impact has stretched far beyond the boundaries of the project itself, positively affecting the ability to work in partnership with the Ministry for the betterment of Ontario's education system. OTF sincerely hopes the Ontario Government will continue to fund this highly successful work and that the many years of collaboration will continue and flourish.

Read more about the TLLP's impacts in the Executive Summary of the [TLLP Research Report](#).



subsidies end

One of the major professional learning programs funded by the Ontario Government in recent years has been the AQ subsidy program for math, technology and Kindergarten.

- 2017-18: OTF allocated 7,172 AQ subsidies: 4,331 in math, 1,698 in Kindergarten and 1,143 in technology.
- Total since inception of program: almost 24,000 AQ subsidies: 15,426 math, 5,043 Kindergarten and 3,390 technology.

Overwhelmingly, those who received the subsidies indicated that they saw substantial improvements in their content knowledge, confidence, and instructional and assessment practices. Ninety-three percent of subsidy recipients indicated that the subsidy influenced their decision to take the course(s) to some degree and 27 percent said that they would not have taken the course without the subsidy.

Many members expressed their disappointment regarding the discontinuation of the AQ subsidy. OTF hopes the Ministry will recognize the lost opportunity to strengthen teaching practice and will once again fund the program.

A message from the OTF Secretary-Treasurer



Rhonda Kimberley-Young

Colleagues,

Although we are well into the school year, little more is known about the direction Ontario's public education system will take. In ongoing consultations, questions are asked but still no glimpse of the "big picture" – either evidence that it is currently non-existent or yet to be revealed. More telling than the questions about STEM education, HPE curriculum, cell phones and mathematics, however, is the frequent refrain from the Minister and Government that the province needs to drastically reduce spending. Also telling is Bill 48, showing the Government's hand with respect to mathematics; i.e., testing teacher candidates; before the consultation is even finished. Notably, this legislation also allows for a restructuring of the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT). The Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education spoke specifically about the high number of "unionized" teachers currently on the OCT Council.

As for OTF, we have no indication at this point that the Ford Government will offer financial support to teachers for professional learning. Over the past 15 years, OTF was pleased to offer a broad range of professional learning opportunities to teachers – PD which was "by teachers, for teachers." This took the form of conferences on critical thinking,

mathematics, wellbeing, financial literacy, technology-enabled teaching and learning, and financial literacy among others. With the help of partners such as the subject associations, we offered a broad range of three-day intensive summer institutes, directed at supporting teacher capacity and often related to revised curriculum. Various teacher-led projects such as the Teacher Learning Co-operatives (TLCs) allowed teachers to work together on project-based learning or research. Great resources for teachers resulted from these efforts and new networks of teachers learning together developed. We administered subsidies for AQ and ABQ courses in math, Kindergarten and technology to thousands of teachers over the last four to five years. We offered a substantial number of webinars, again on a broad range of topics over the past

decade. At present, we do not know if the Teacher Learning and Leadership Program (TLLP), which attracted international attention for its success, will continue or will take a new form.

While we will make our best case to the Ministry on these programs, we have yet to meet the Minister face to face for that discussion. Ministry staff are not yet in a position to confirm whether programs will continue or be terminated.

While teachers should rest assured that OTF will make every effort to speak effectively on behalf of the profession on the success and merits of the programs we have offered, we simply do not know what direction teacher professional learning will take in Ontario.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rhonda Kimberley-Young".

December 6

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women

The Ontario Teachers' Federation honours the memory of the 14 female students killed on December 6, 1989 at L'École Polytechnique in Montreal.



Geneviève Bergeron
Hélène Colgan
Nathalie Croteau
Barbara Daigneault
Anne-Marie Edward
Maud Haviernick
Maryse Laganière
Maryse Leclair
Anne-Marie Lemay
Sonia Pelletier
Michèle Richard
Annie St-Arneault
Annie Turcotte
Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz

Congratulations to three outstanding Ontario teachers OTIP Teaching Awards 2018

The Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP) and OTF recognized three excellent teachers with the OTIP Teaching Award:

- **Jeff White**, St Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School, Oakville - Beginning Teacher Category
- **My-Linh Hang-Coleman**, Eastview Public School, Toronto - Elementary Teacher Category
- **Lauren Hortie**, Oasis Alternative Secondary School, Toronto - Secondary Teacher Category

"OTIP is proud to recognize these exceptional teachers in Ontario's schools," said Vic Medland, CEO of OTIP. "We are inspired by their continued desire to ensure each and every student reaches their maximum potential."

"OTF is pleased to recognize these winners who are an example of the excellence of teachers in classrooms throughout Ontario," stated Diane

Dewing, OTF President. "Their dedication, innovation and caring for students contributes to Ontario's publicly funded education being one of the best in the world."

OTIP and OTF co-sponsor the OTIP Teaching Awards for excellence in teaching in the publicly funded school system. Click on [OTIP Teaching Awards](#) for more information.



L to R: Roxanne Chartrand, OTIP EVP; Jeff White, Beginning Teacher Category; Lauren Hortie, Secondary Teacher Category; Vic Medland, OTIP CEO; My-Linh Hang-Coleman, Elementary Teacher Category; and Diane Dewing, OTF President

OTIP presented the inaugural Support Staff Worker Award to Debbie Pielechaty, Guidance Secretary at Robert Bateman High School, Burlington.

At the same ceremony, Groupe Média TFO presented the Prix IDELLO 2018 to Josée Loyer, École élémentaire catholique Arc-en-ciel, Orléans.

Community Living Ontario



OTF's designated charity, 2018-19

Several years ago, the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) decided to choose annually an organization or charity to support in lieu of mailing festive cards. That charity this year is Community Living Ontario.

Community Living Ontario is a family-based association assisting people who have an intellectual disability and their families to lead the way in advancing inclusion in their own lives and in

their communities. The organization envisions a society where people who have an intellectual disability belong, have equal rights, respect and acceptance, a sense of self-worth and opportunities for growth.

Go to [Community Living](#) to read more about the organization.

Want to recognize a teacher who does great work in their school?

Nominate in one of three categories: elementary, secondary, or beginning teacher in the first five years of teaching.

Winners receive a personal award of \$1,000 and a Certificate of Recognition and another \$1,000 prize and a Certificate of Recognition for their school.

Nominations open on January 7, 2019 and close at 11:59 pm on March 31, 2019

teachingawards.ca