

A message from the OTF President



Colleagues,

I am a rampant and unrepentant optimist. This quality has supported me as I worked to create change in my classroom, my school and my community. It is what allows me to face each day. That said, as I reflect on this profession that I love, I find I am, in equal parts, disturbed and encouraged.

Disturbed: This has been a trying year for education and for those of our disadvantaged communities. As teachers, this is a double hit. The impact of cuts in supports to the poor, to equity communities and to the number of teachers in our classrooms is profound. Teachers tell me over and over how they fear the additional pressures of larger class sizes and lack of community supports for at-risk families will increase violence or impact not only their ability to teach but also their health.

Encouraged: Fear and anxiety are mobilizing teachers, students and concerned citizens in unprecedented numbers. They are meeting with their MPPs. They are gathering for information meetings and rallies. They are engaging others in reflecting on what we value as Ontarians. They are fighting for education, health care and the issues important to Ontarians. People who have never been active before are joining the movement to speak out. Teachers are leaders in these movements.

Under this umbrella of disturbance and encouragement, OTF has continued as a strong and united voice. We are proud of the work we do in advocacy, professional learning, and pension. Our on-going campaign, Our Kids Succeed, speaks to Ontario's high-quality education with the data to support it. Recently, the National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education posted a wonderful profile of the many ways OTF supported teachers' work in FNMI education, even before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established. Their website is worth checking out. There is much to celebrate even in trying times.

In the final months of my mandate, please know that this teacher will

continue to speak proudly of and advocate for you. I will participate in many meetings, conferences and media interviews. Know that I will always stand with teachers and fight for the well-funded, well-resourced education all our students deserve. When students thrive, teachers thrive.

Grow in strength but practise self-care.

Best wishes for a wonderful, restful summer!

Diane Dewing
President

Ontario Student Trustees' Association May 6, 2019 Queen's Park Press Conference

OTF President Diane Dewing with representatives from the Ontario Student Trustees' Association at their May 6, 2019 Queen's Park Press Conference announcing the release of *The Students' Vision for Education*, a roadmap of OSTA's advocacy work.



L to R: Amin Ali, Policy Coordinator; Lindsey Keene, Public Affairs Coordinator; Diane Dewing, OTF President; and Amal Qayum, OSTA President

Suzanne Bonneville receives 2019 Greer Award

Suzanne Bonneville, the founder of the Association francophone de parents d'enfants dyslexiques (AFPED+), received the 2019 Greer Award for outstanding contributions to public education at the April meeting of the OTF Board of Governors.

In 1999, Suzanne established l'Association francophone de parents d'enfants dyslexiques (AFPED, now known as AFPED+). The organization is composed entirely of volunteer parents who, among other things, assist parents of children with learning disabilities in finding their way through the education system, work with the school for the child's benefit and look after resources for education stakeholders.

Suzanne's determination and commitment for the academic and social success of all children has made the AFPED+ an irreplaceable organization for Ontario's francophone community.



L to R: Rémi Sabourin, AEFO President; Suzanne Bonneville, Association francophone de parents d'enfants dyslexiques (AFPED+); and Diane Dewing, OTF President

Live and Learn

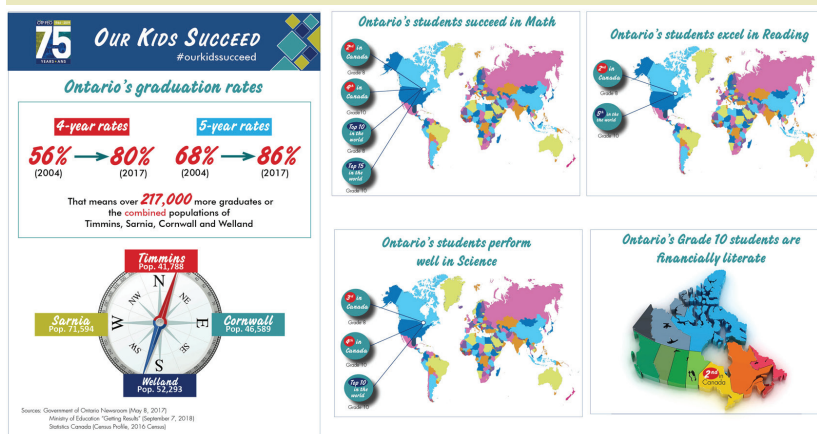


Live and Learn: OTF/FEO is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2019. This video, *Live and Learn*, focuses on five important aspects of OTF/FEO: Remember your roots, Plan for the future, Fight for your rights, Change for the better, and Play well with others.

Watch the video [here](#).



OTF infographics



Click on infographics to view or download.

AQ subsidies may be back!

At this point, OTF is in the final stages of a plan to offer AQ subsidies for Math and Teaching Students with Communications Needs (Autism Spectrum Disorders). Details are not available yet but watch the OTF AQ subsidy page for more information in the future.



A message from the OTF Secretary-Treasurer

OTF: In good shape and in good hands

Colleagues,

After 12 years as OTF Secretary-Treasurer and a previous four years on the OTF Executive, I am retiring this summer.

It was a period marked by deep engagement with the Ministry on many files, unprecedented opportunities for voluntary professional learning through various partnerships and growth in the capacity of OTF to support such programs.

There was significant volatility with the OTPP—from minor to large deficits, to a more recent series of surpluses. The Plan is now better equipped to deal with both market fluctuations and Plan maturity because of changes made by the Partners some years ago.

OTF's communication tools have changed significantly as social media has become more important. By moving our office last year, and sharing space

with QECO, we not only contained costs but also have an office much better suited to our needs now and tomorrow. I am proud that we were able to support and work with so many deserving organizations and projects along the way—Student Vote (CIVIX), the Lieutenant Governor's Literacy Camps, Frontier College and many, many others. I have worked with so many talented OTF Executive, Board and committee members, pension partners, Plan management and OTPP directors—and of course, the excellent staff at OTF. So, despite political turmoil outside the office, I know I am leaving OTF with a dedicated staff, improved capacity, excellent partners and strong leadership at the Executive and Board level. OTF is in good shape.

Having celebrated milestones here, I am reminded that OTF has outlasted governments for 75 years. It will



Rhonda Kimberley-Young

continue to be a strong voice and advocate for the teaching profession and publicly funded education—whether with Government, EQAO, OCT or the public at large.

What gives me even more confidence in stepping aside is knowing that Scott Perkin will take on the role of Secretary-Treasurer. Scott, OTF's Director of Pension and Economic Affairs since 2012, has proven to be an invaluable asset to OTF. He has an in-depth knowledge of both the Pension Plan and OTF. I know that OTF is in good hands under his leadership.

I wish OTF continued success and I am truly grateful to have had such a challenging, rewarding, interesting and meaningful opportunity as your Secretary-Treasurer.

All the Right Elements:

OTPP 2018
Report to
Members

To read the complete
report, click on
[pensionreport.](#)

**FULLY FUNDED
TO MEET OUR
PENSION PROMISE**

\$191.1B
IN NET ASSETS (UP FROM
\$189.5 BILLION IN 2017)

104%
FUNDED, WITH
A PRELIMINARY
\$10.0 BILLION SURPLUS

2.5%
TOTAL-FUND
NET RETURN, 1.8%
ABOVE BENCHMARK

\$5.2B
IN NET
INVESTMENT INCOME

8.8/10
SERVICE RATING

When Chris Beesley, CEO of Community Living Ontario (CLO), addressed the OTF Board of Governors' Meeting in April, he stated that CLO shares many of the concerns of educators about access to a quality education for those with learning disabilities. Challenges include class composition, resources, professional development, class sizes, and awareness/relationships/ methodology.



Beesley stated that our current educational system was created during the industrial revolution to meet the needs of an increasingly urban population who came to cities to work in factories. The goal was standardization, schedules, conformity and teaching to the middle—the average—which made sense then.

Now, however, the challenge is to create a future for students that embraces diversity and difference, that works with, when and how students learn, rather than aiming for the middle. Educators and CLO can work together to create this future.

For more information, click on [communitylivingontario](http://communitylivingontario.com).



Elementary and high school teachers are invited to engage their students in *Student Vote* for the October federal election

Student Vote enables teachers to bring democracy alive in the classroom and empowers students to experience the voting process firsthand through a vote on the local candidates running in their school's riding.

Participating schools receive a variety of educational materials to teach about government, democracy and the electoral process, and encourage research into the issues, parties and candidates. Ballots, ballot boxes and voting screens are also provided for the coordination of Student Vote Day.

CIVIX has joined forces with Elections Canada to offer the program free to schools throughout the country. More than 9,000 schools and 1 million students are expected to participate.

Not Just Tourists



Take A Suitcase, Change A Life!

Not Just Tourists is a small, registered, non-profit charitable organization with the purpose of getting medical supplies to those who can't afford them. Ordinary tourists are given the means to change the lives of the locals they visit.

Dr. Ken Taylor and his wife Denise, from St. Catharines, started taking medical supplies to remote areas in Cuba in the 90's. And that was the beginning of the Not Just Tourists phenomenon. Not Just Tourists has chapters across Canada along with a few chapters in the UK and the US. Over 10,000 suitcases have been delivered to 82 countries. There are eight chapters across Ontario.

Not Just Tourists receives donations from hospitals, clinics, medical suppliers and individuals. The supplies donated are typically gauze, bandages, surgical instruments, masks, gloves, antiseptics, IV kits, urinary supplies and birthing kits. Travellers sign up and are given the suitcases to deliver to clinics where they are needed.

If you would like further information about Not Just Tourists, visit <https://njt.net/>.