



Addressing systemic racism and discrimination

Recent events across Canada have again called into sharp relief that systemic racism remains a disturbing reality in Canada. The Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) is deeply troubled by the treatment of Black and Indigenous people, including the tragic deaths in recent months, not to mention decades. These events are a clarion call for action. As Ontarians, Canadians and citizens of the world, we are all diminished when some of us are subjected to systemic racism and discrimination.

Acknowledging this reality is only a first step; sustained action is important to shift beliefs and behaviours. This is important work in which we all must engage. Teachers, educational workers, and the publicly funded education system as a whole have an important role to play. Our schools and classrooms are one place where we can support students in recognizing the historic and contemporary root causes of injustice, in confronting them, and being agents of change.

OTF firmly believes that all Canadians have a right to equal treatment without discrimination because of age; ancestry, colour, race; citizenship; ethnic origin; place of origin; creed; disability; family status; marital status, including single status; sex (including pregnancy and breastfeeding); gender identity, gender expression; and sexual orientation – a society in which each person can fully and freely participate and exercise their rights. OTF further believes that we must all vigorously oppose any discrimination against any person.

OTF stands in solidarity with all those who are protesting peacefully to bring BIPOC injustices to the forefront and demand change. An attack on one of us is, indeed, an attack on all of us.

We call on our members to renew their individual and collective responsibility and commitment to being catalysts of change in Ontario.