



November 26, 2020

Nicole van Woudenberg, Chair of Council
Ontario College of Teachers
101 Bloor Street West
Toronto, ON M5S 0A1

Dear Chair van Woudenberg:

It was very disturbing to see the cover of the December 2020 issue of *Professional Speaking*. I am extremely concerned that the image, juxtaposed with the headings, suggests that teachers, in particular male teachers, are not to be trusted with students. Teachers in this province hold their professional conduct to the highest degree of ethical standards, but the image chosen by OCT feeds into a false narrative that teachers in Ontario are engaging in inappropriate relationships with students. This image does not enhance OCT's mandate of ensuring the public trust in the teaching profession, nor does it model the standards of the profession.

At a time when OCT has claimed that Ontario's school system needs an infusion of educators, images such as the one on the cover of your magazine can only give potential recruits to the profession pause for concern.

I have received a great deal of negative feedback on this issue, as many members of the profession are terribly upset. To remedy this egregious error in judgement, I am asking OCT to write a letter of apology to the members of the teaching profession with a commitment to avoiding this type of error in the future, and additionally to produce a different cover for this edition of *Professionally Speaking*.

Yours truly,

Parker Robinson
President

cc: Editor, Professionally Speaking – ps@oct.ca

PR/lg