

For immediate release

## Ford government clearly driving publicly funded education towards privatization

**TORONTO, March 26, 2021** — “It is clear, from the signals in the Ontario government budget 2021, that the Ford government is intent on taking Ontario’s parents, students and educators further down the road to privatization,” stated Parker Robinson, President of the Ontario Teachers’ Federation (OTF).

“Significant funding for expanded online learning, the increase in the Support for Learners’ vouchers and the decrease in funding for publicly funded schools – these are significant signs that the government is intent on eroding our system and encouraging parents to choose other options,” added Robinson. “All this while, our publicly funded schools are suffering from government underfunding.”

“Families have endured and continue to endure many hardships during the ongoing pandemic. A well-functioning publicly funded school system – with students and teachers interacting safely in face-to-face settings – provides some sense of stability during these uncertain times,” concluded Robinson. “This budget further bolsters OTF’s concern that this government is intent on dismantling what has become a world-renowned publicly funded education system here in Ontario.”

To view OTF’s position on privatization, go to [www.otffeo.on.ca](http://www.otffeo.on.ca).

The Ontario Teachers’ Federation is the advocate for the teaching profession in Ontario and for its 160,000 teachers. OTF members are full-time, part-time and occasional teachers in all the publicly funded schools in the province—elementary, secondary, public, Catholic and francophone.

- 30 -

**For more information, contact**

**Scott Perkin, Secretary-Treasurer**

[scott.perkin@otffeo.on.ca](mailto:scott.perkin@otffeo.on.ca)

[www.otffeo.on.ca](http://www.otffeo.on.ca)