

A message from the OTF President



Parker Robinson

Dear colleagues,

As the pandemic continues, OTF recognizes the stress that education workers are feeling as they try to provide a quality education experience for students while keeping their health and safety at the top of the list. Education workers should be prioritized for vaccinations if the Ford government is, indeed, committed to a return to school plan that is safe and sustainable.

OTF continues to recognize disturbing trends in the policies and practices the Ministry of Education and the Ford government are putting in place. The direction certainly points to a shift to privatization of our publicly funded education system. This is unacceptable. Strong, publicly funded education provides opportunities for success for the children and families of Ontario without barriers based on cost or equitable access. OTF has been involved in an active campaign pushing back on these disturbing trends. Social media messaging has been used to educate our members and the Ontario public. Also, we have used our interactions with other education stakeholders to express our concern regarding these trends and advocate for appropriate funding for the publicly funded education system. Finally, opportunities for research partnerships are being sought out to investigate the impact of online learning on the learning outcomes of students and how these trends fit into the publicly funded education system.

As we head into the final third of the school year, OTF will continue to work on behalf of our members to protect publicly funded education in Ontario and to support the educators who work every day to help students learn as well as deal with the challenging times that our communities are facing.

We ask that all educators be sure to take care of their own wellbeing and seek out support if they need help.

Yours in education,

