

A message from the OTF President



Parker Robinson

Dear colleagues,

The 2020-21 school year has begun. With much uncertainty, you are returning to your schools and doing your best to prepare for the challenges ahead. I commend you for this. Your dedication to our students is admirable. I am humbled to begin my journey working for you at OTF, joining the outstanding team of professionals that work on your behalf each day.

In the coming year, I will focus my attention on three key areas: amplify the voice of OTF's Affiliates in holding the government to account regarding their weak return to school plan and pandemic response; take action to shine a light on anti-Black racism (ABR) and systemic racism within our communities/schools/organizations; and finally, push back against the privatization agenda that is apparent to publicly funded education stakeholders.

We have already started the important work of addressing ABR and systemic racism. Communications stating the need to meet this issue head on will be shared with the Ministry of Education and faculties of education and the Ontario College of Teachers. As well, OTF is reviewing our own organization to be sure we are acting in a manner that provides a safe, equitable and fair organization that all educators can be proud of.

Each year, the incoming OTF president has the honour of selecting a charity to support in lieu of seasonal cards. This year, I have chosen Covenant House. Educators are always striving to help young people reach their potential. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, some of our students end up facing situations that lead them to difficult and painful outcomes. Covenant House has been helping vulnerable youth overcome homelessness, hunger, and the trauma of trafficking and has provided them with support and opportunities to change their lives for the better. Their work is inspiring. I look forward to OTF supporting this important work.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Parker Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Parker Robinson
President