

## A message from the OTF President



**Parker Robinson**

**Dear colleagues,**

The school year is approaching the end, but teachers and education workers are still facing challenges and uncertainty. The incredible work that has been done to keep the education system functioning cannot be overstated. Teachers have continued to provide high quality learning opportunities for students even as they face the barriers presented by technology, an uncertain future, and the ever-shifting education landscape. OTF recognizes the efforts made by educators and we continue to advocate for appropriate supports for this work.

During the months of March and April, the nomination process for the 2021 OTIP Teaching Awards moved forward. During this time, many people pointed out that all teachers in Ontario deserve an award for the work they have done in 2021. We agree, and so OTF will be hosting a virtual celebration for our members, the teachers in Ontario, on June 24. In collaboration with The Debaters, a special year-end virtual celebration will be presented. The great comedians of The Debaters will consider the topic, "all I need to know I learned in kindergarten." The event will provide educators an opportunity to sit back and enjoy some comedy in recognition of their efforts this year. We hope you will join us for this fun and entertaining event.

OTF continues to support the efforts of the Ontario Teacher Candidates' Council to push back against the ill-conceived Math Proficiency Test (MPT). As Ontario's education sector struggles under the weight of the pandemic, the Ford government has decided to move forward with this additional requirement for teacher

candidates. The added stress of the MPT for beginning teachers and teacher candidates is unnecessary and unwarranted. As we continue to push back on the test, OTF is actively supporting teacher candidates and beginning teachers by providing [Math Office Hours](#), a virtual math support opportunity to help prepare for the test.

OTF wishes all educators a good end of year and we encourage you to take time to recover and rejuvenate during the upcoming summer break.

Yours in education,

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

*June is...  
National  
Indigenous  
History Month*



# Joint OTF-Affiliate submissions & responses

OTF and its Affiliates have been active in creating joint responses and submissions on a range of hot-topic matters including Grade 9 mathematics de-streaming, Grade 10 Civics and Citizenship curriculum review and EQAO's pilot test of the Grade 10 digitized OSSLT.

## EQAO's Pilot test of the Grade 10 digitized OSSLT

Given the government's and EQAO's intransigence about postponing the pilot test of a digitized OSSLT, OTF and its Affiliates issued a joint media release on March 12, calling on Education Minister Stephen Lecce to cancel the pilot test. This garnered media traction and may have influenced more school boards to publicly announce they would not be participating in this year's OSSLT pilot test.



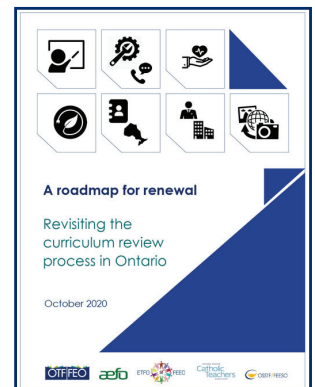
*Navigating De-Streaming: OTF and Affiliate Feedback on the Ministry of Education's A Guide to De-streaming for Board Leaders (January 2021 Draft)* focused attention on concerns related to implementation and training for frontline teachers who will be tasked with implementing the de-streaming policy.

## Grade 10 Civics and Citizenship curriculum review

This spring, the Ministry announced it was adding yet another curriculum,

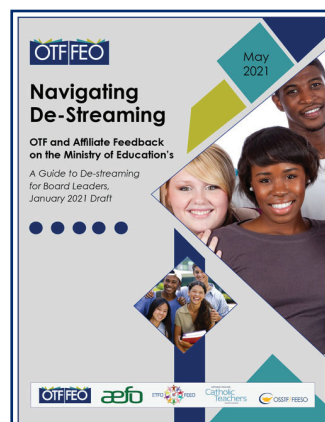
Grade 10 Civics and Citizenship, to the long slate of curricula already scheduled to undergo review, including Science and Technology (Grades 1-8), Mathematics (Grade 9), Science (Grades 9-12), Technological Studies (Grades 9-12), Business Studies (Grades 9-12) and Computer Studies (Grades 10-12).

OTF, together with AEFO, OECA and OSSTF, submitted joint feedback in response to the Ministry's initial phase of the curriculum review process, which focused on soliciting information about the current version of the Civics and Citizenship curriculum and course.



## Grade 9 mathematics curriculum de-streaming

The Ministry of Education continues to move toward the de-streaming of the Grade 9 mathematics curriculum, slated for mandatory implementation in September 2021. Earlier this spring, OTF was invited to participate in a Ministry-sponsored Grade 9 mathematics education stakeholders' roundtable. OTF and its Affiliates elected to submit a joint bilingual response with additional perspectives and feedback about de-streaming and, more specifically, about the Ministry's January draft of *A Guide to De-streaming for Board Leaders*.



**Given the Ministry's obvious penchant for committing numerous curricula to its curriculum review process, OTF and its Affiliates will continue to press Ministry leadership and staff about our concerns with a rushed process with unfeasible timelines for consultation, feedback, release and implementation.**

# A message from the OTF Secretary-Treasurer



Scott Perkin

Dear colleagues,

As the end of the school year quickly approaches, OTF celebrates Ontario's educators for all that they have accomplished during the past year, in the face of adversity and despite what they have endured from the current government, in an effort to keep Ontario's students progressing towards educational success.

OTF has advocated against the imposition of EQAO testing at the secondary level during this difficult year, and we have repeatedly demanded that the Minister shelve his plans for the ill-conceived Math Proficiency Test for new teacher graduates.

OTF reluctantly agreed last fall to relax the 50-day re-employment rule for pensioners during the current school year, recognizing that this would not solve potential supply issues created by the government. However, we now have thousands of new teacher graduates available to assist and eligible for Permanent Teaching Certificates, but for having to successfully complete the Math Proficiency Test by the end of August (**just extended to December 31, 2021**).

At OTF, we look forward to a "new normal" and the return of business and social interactions. Unfortunately, our Annual Meeting in late August will occur online for the second year in a row. As a result, we have had to postpone the in-person celebration of our newest OTF Fellowship recipients to next spring. In the meantime, we congratulate our 2021 OTF Fellows (highlighted in this *Interaction*)!

With the summer months now clearly in sight, I encourage everyone to continue following public health advice while supporting your families, your colleagues and your communities in staying safe and healthy.

Yours in education,

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Are you looking for professional learning opportunities this summer to build out your teaching and learning toolkit?

OTF is excited to announce that we will be offering a series of 10 virtual OTF Summer Institutes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, starting August 2 and ending August 23.

## Pathways & Possibilities



The theme of the institutes is *Professional Learning: Pathways & Possibilities* and will span a range of curricula and divisions, facilitated "by teachers for teachers."



## Ten outstanding 2021 Fellows

Annually, OTF awards up to 10 Fellowships to deserving individuals who have made outstanding contributions to OTF, publicly funded education, and/or have advocated on social issues. Each Affiliate may nominate up to two candidates for a Fellowship in the member category and one or more candidates for a Fellowship in the non-member category.

Normally, the new Fellows would be honoured at the Annual Board of Governors' meeting in August. However, as with OTF's 2020 winners, because of the COVID-19 restrictions, this is not possible. To celebrate the new Fellows in person, they will be recognized at the OTF Spring Board of Governors' meeting in April 2022.



Kim Appel  
*OSSTF*



Valentin  
Fekou-Youmbi  
*AEFO*



Joanne Myers  
*ETFO*



Susan Perry  
*OECTA*



Sean Roberts  
*OECTA*



Jane Bennett  
*ETFO*



Claudine Laporte  
*AEFO*



Shelley Page  
*OSSTF*  
(posthumously)



Ethan Poskanzer  
*Non-member*



Parker Robinson  
*OTF Président*  
(2020-2021)

## OTF Math Office Hours

### Beginning teachers must pass the Math Proficiency Test (MPT)

To support beginning teachers and teacher candidates with the stress of completing the government-mandated MPT by August 31, 2021 (**just extended to December 31, 2021**), OTF is offering an online program, OTF Math Office Hours.

OTF Math Office Hours gives beginning teachers and teacher candidates the opportunity to ask questions about math concepts and procedures and to receive support from a teacher qualified in math.

The sessions are every Wednesday afternoon/evening until August 11 and last approximately 90 minutes. Users can log in at any point during the time slot and attend as many sessions as they wish.

OTF thanks the experienced teachers who are supporting OTF Math Office Hours sessions.

To register, click on [officehours](#).