



Nathan Core

A message from the OTF President

Greetings teachers,

A new school year has commenced. I, like many of you, am optimistic about the possibilities that are before us. With a full return to in-person learning, we have the potential to create new realities that truly encompass what we all need. I am, however, also cognizant of the hesitation and nervousness of returning to challenges that existed for years that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

This year for OTF brings its own set of challenges and opportunities. Our main priority is supporting the Affiliates as they bargain to improve your salary and working conditions. If you turn on the news, you'll see fearmongering and discourse intended to present teachers as the problem. In reality, the government holds the power to determine stability for our educational system. The reality of teacher shortages is a disservice to everybody in the classroom, specifically marginalized students that require additional support. We need sustainable solutions. We need investments in public education, and we need the government to recognize the profession's autonomy to have authentic self-regulation.

I would be remiss not to also acknowledge the circumstances that impact you all beyond the classrooms. I understand you are more than just teachers. There are several social conditions that impede your ability to walk into the classroom every day. The systemic racial climate that affects so many of our racialized kin and most recently the mass attack on an Indigenous community in Saskatchewan harms us all. With Orange Shirt Day around the corner, navigating these conversations with your students while also mourning the personal toll this has on you, I understand, is arduous.

Despite the fluctuating circumstances, one thing remains clear: OTF is working for you. We are dedicated to championing, advocating, and fighting for public education. We are dedicated to enhancing the opinion of the profession. We are dedicated to ensuring the pension promise for years of service. OTF may be the voice but each of us are ambassadors as we lead our classrooms and care for our students. Take pride in the fact that we have the opportunity to shape the leaders of tomorrow; an objective that is unwavering despite any and all political climates.

On your behalf and on behalf of OTF, I've had the privilege of presenting to teacher candidates across the province. Be assured: the profession is in good hands. Tomorrow's teachers are excited and passionate about the work they will be doing and to continue the legacies you have all contributed to. The challenges we face, know that we face them together, united under the banner of the Ontario Teachers' Federation. Jointly, we will defend public education and celebrate its successes. These demanding times will not stand in the way of our duty to provide the highest level of education to the next generation of Ontarians. Our students and our communities deserve it.

Yours in solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nathan Core', written in a cursive style.

Nathan Core
OTF President