

A message from the OTF President

Greetings teachers,

I hope this message finds you well. I am pleased to share with you some updates from the Ontario Teachers' Federation.

First, I want to highlight the cautious optimism that I have in the convening of a "Supply and Demand Action Table" to address the shortage of teachers in some school boards. This was a significant step forward, as we knew that adjusting pension rules for retirees who wish to help in the classroom would only be a band-aid solution. The Action Table, attended by a range of stakeholders including the Affiliates, government officials, directors and school boards, principals and supervisory officers, deans of education, and the Ontario College of Teachers, will develop a comprehensive set of questions and identify possible solutions to the current staffing challenges. Their first meeting occurred on March 27, 2023.



Nathan Core
President

While we celebrate the efforts being made to address the shortage of teachers, it is important to address the prevalence of underqualified and uncertified teachers in the public school system. This undermines the profession and public education. It is crucial that we ensure that only fully qualified and certified teachers are allowed to teach in our schools.

Additionally, the major changes to curriculum by the Ministry of Education that are occurring without consultation with OTF and its Affiliates, and the lack of time and resources for the classroom teacher to implement them, are a major concern. OTF will continue to advocate for meaningful consultation and appropriate resources to ensure that teachers are able to deliver quality education to our students.

Following our formal opposition to the Ontario College of Teachers fee increase, we created an advocacy [website](#) where members could voice their individual opposition. Over 7,000 emails have been sent to the OCT through the website, highlighting member opposition concerns. This website can be used for other future advocacy opportunities.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Affiliates (AEFO, OECTA and OSSTF) for inviting OTF to their recent annual meetings and I look forward to joining ETFO in the summer. These invitations are invaluable opportunities to showcase the unity that OTF embodies across the province. The conduit of OTF should be used as a tool to unite the profession and to advocate for publicly funded education, and the presence of the OTF helps provide authenticity to that vision.

I want to thank the OTF staff for their skills and professionalism; the Executive for their collaboration, guidance, and kindness, and most importantly, the teachers in the classroom who inspire us to continue to advocate for a strong publicly funded education system.