



Yves Durocher

A message from the OTF President

Dear colleagues,

The year surely begins with gathering clouds on the horizon.

As with September 2022, this school year begins in the midst of negotiations for the four teacher Affiliates and much uncertainty.

At the same time, we have a Government that brags about “investments” in education, but must surely realize, as do you and I, that our students need much more than dollars that don't seem to make it to the classroom.

Take a look at the latest news from [People for Education](#) and you'll see that the rhetoric is just that. What young people need, and what we need, is support, encouragement and appreciation. In short, Ontario needs to nurture a culture that enhances the image of teaching and the professionals who carry out this work, this vocation.

It wasn't so long ago that society prioritized what happened in our schools. In fact, right after health care, education was the top priority for Ontario voters. But in recent years, perhaps since 2018, it's as if education has become just another issue, like housing, transportation and energy.

And yet, we know that it is through a strong, well-functioning publicly funded education system that future generations will be able to meet the challenges of an aging population, environmental degradation, a changing economy, the growing role of technology, the erosion of confidence in democratic institutions, and so on.

This is where OTF wants to put its energies and resources. Let's make sure that education remains a priority, so that together with our students, the teachers of this province can build the flourishing society of tomorrow.

Yours in education,

Yves Durocher
President