



Response of the Ontario  
Teachers' Federation (OTF) to

**ONTARIO'S REGULATORY  
REGISTRY: PROPOSED  
REGULATORY AMENDMENTS  
REGARDING ASSIGNMENT  
OF TEACHERS TO TEACH  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
EDUCATION**

March 2024

# Response of the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) to Ontario's Regulatory Registry: Proposed Regulatory Amendments Regarding Assignment of Teachers to Teach Technological Education

The Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the Ministry of Education (EDU) regarding the proposed regulatory amendments to enable "principals to assign teachers with technological education qualifications to teach *TAS10* and *TAS20* and to assign teachers with general education qualifications to teach *TAS10* and *TAS20* by mutual agreement for one school year, with the ability to renew based on need."

At the time of preparing our response to the proposed regulatory amendments, the Federation has not been made privy to the course descriptions for the two new courses. It is our understanding, however, that the new courses are very similar to the existing Exploring Technologies, Grade 9, Open *TIJ10* course. The existing *TIJ10* course bridges the gap between the elementary science and technology program and the Grade 10 courses in the ten (10) broad-based technological subject areas. The intention of *TIJ10* is to introduce students to technological education in general, exposing them to a range of technological subject areas. The *TIJ10* course has been offered for many years and many best practices have been established for course delivery in this time period. OTF's input to the proposed regulatory changes are based explicitly on this understanding that the proposed new *TAS10* and *TAS20* courses will have a similar focus as the existing *TIJ10* course.

As for all education matters, OTF firmly believes that any and all decisions taken by EDU regarding the skilled trades career pathway for our students should be evidence-informed and supported by appropriate implementation strategies and adequate financial investments. While OTF supports meaningful measures to elevate awareness of technological education and the skilled trades, the Federation **cannot support the introduction of the new, mandatory course offerings as currently envisioned for the 2024-25 school year.** There has not been sufficient stakeholder consultation on the content of the new *TAS10* and *TAS20* courses, nor

has there been sufficient thought given to the supports needed to properly implement and staff these courses, or to the impact on students of mandating an additional course as a diploma requirement.

Should EDU decide to pursue implementation of *TAS10* and *TAS20* in 2024-25, in spite of the counsel provided by many education stakeholders to cancel or delay said implementation, the Federation provides the following responses to the two questions posed by EDU regarding the proposed regulatory amendments:

## 1. **Should principals have the authority to assign teachers with technological education qualifications to teach *TAS10* and *TAS20*?**

*Regulation 298*, made under the *Education Act*, requires principals to assign teachers to the best possible program, with due consideration for delivering the best possible program and regard to the safety and well-being of students. Under the Regulation, teacher assignments must also be done in accordance with the teacher's specific qualifications.

Provided that the above Regulation is respected, that adequate investments are made by EDU to support the implementation of *TAS10* and *TAS20* and that the principal or school board engage in

meaningful discussion with local bargaining units regarding the assignment of teachers to teach the new courses, OTF supports this proposal.

**2. Should principals have the authority to assign teachers with general education qualifications to teach *TAS10* and *TAS20* by mutual agreement for one school year, with the ability to renew based on need?**

OTF stands opposed to this proposal.

*Regulation 298* is clear that only teachers who have the necessary qualifications in Technological Education may be assigned to teach Technological Education. The Regulation explicitly disallows teachers without specialized qualifications to be assigned by mutual agreement. This restriction has been in place for decades, in recognition of the specialized subject matter that is the basis of the Technological Education courses that are offered in our schools, as well as a clear understanding of the potential health and safety risks to students in a Technological Education course or program, which exceed those in a general education course or program. This important provision in the Regulation has served students and teachers well over the years, keeping them safe and ensuring that they are taught by qualified teachers. OTF believes that this should continue to apply for all courses in Technological Education.

The Ontario Teachers' Federation is the advocate for the teaching profession in Ontario and for its 160,000+ teachers. OTF members are full-time, part-time and occasional teachers in all the publicly funded schools in the province—elementary, secondary, public, Catholic and francophone.