

INTERACTION

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A MESSAGE FROM THE OTF PRESIDENT



As another school year begins, on behalf of the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF), I want to extend a warm welcome back to you—our members. Each September brings with it renewed energy, new opportunities, and fresh challenges. This year is no different.

The work you do is at the very heart of publicly funded education. Every lesson you teach, every connection you make, and every bit of encouragement you offer contributes to shaping the future of this province. OTF recognizes the tremendous

commitment it takes to walk into your classroom each day ready to meet students where they are, to foster curiosity, and to help them grow into engaged citizens.

At the same time, we know the realities you face every day: growing class sizes, complex student needs, and a shortage of resources. We hear you. OTF remains steadfast in advocating for the supports you need to do your work effectively and sustainably. We channel your voice and experience in every conversation we have with the government, stakeholders, and the public.

Education in Ontario has long been a source of pride. It is built on strong values: equity, inclusion, shared history, and the belief that every child deserves access to high-quality publicly funded

education. Teachers are the guardians of these values. In an era where misinformation and division often dominate public discourse, your role in fostering critical thinking, compassion, and community has never been more important.

OTF also acknowledges the toll that the demands of teaching can take. Balancing professional responsibilities with personal well-being is not easy. As this school year begins, we encourage you to lean on your colleagues, your federations, and your communities for support. Collective strength and solidarity have always been the foundation of our profession. Together, we will continue to stand up for teachers, for students, and for the publicly funded education system that is the foundation of a civil society in Ontario.

As you welcome students into your classrooms, know that your efforts matter profoundly. The learning environments you create are safe harbours where young people can grow, question, and dream. The Ontario Teachers' Federation is proud to represent you and to work alongside you in building a stronger future for publicly funded education in this province.

I wish you a successful, inspiring, and rewarding school year.

In solidarity,

Chris

Chris Cowley, President

