

For immediate release

OTF's response to the Ontario government's latest announcement on Ontario's Initial Teacher Education Program

TORONTO, April 10, 2026 —The Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) is receptive to proposed changes to Ontario's current Initial Teacher Education Program (ITE). The changes announced by Ministers Calandra and Quinn earlier today include reducing the training from four semesters over two years to a consecutive 12 months, from May to May, within three back-to-back semesters, as well as an increase to the current practicum requirements.

A well-funded and formalized program of teacher preparation is essential. OTF has long supported the notion of a 12-month program, delivered over three semesters. We welcome an increase in the practicum component and an additional stipend paid to associate teachers for mentoring teacher candidates.

We are disappointed that the Ministers did not consult with OTF on the proposed changes. We hope they will recognize the importance of working with OTF and the Faculties of Education as we move into this new ITE landscape.

"We expect that the changes announced today will be followed up with sufficient supports for Faculties of Education to adapt to what are complex program changes contemplated in a very short time period," stated Chris Cowley, OTF President. "We are concerned that the announced timelines for implementation will not be feasible."

Equally important will be how the government appropriately supports the transition to teaching of beginning teachers. We know from the Ontario College of Teachers' recent release of its 2025 Focus on Teaching Survey that 45 per cent of those in their first five years have never received the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP).

"OTF looks forward to seeing the steps the government plans to introduce to improve working conditions in order to recruit new teachers, retain current teachers and encourage the 40,000+ qualified teachers, who left or never entered the profession, to reconsider teaching," concluded Cowley.

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 publicly funded schools in the province—elementary, secondary, public, Catholic and the French-language system.

- 30 -

For more information, contact

Ronda Allan—Manager, Communications

ronda.allan@otffeo.on.ca

otffeo.on.ca