

# INTERACTION

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 4 | JUNE 2026

## A MESSAGE FROM THE OTF PRESIDENT



### **Bill 101: *Putting Student Achievement (last) Act***

Colleagues,

The Ford government's *Putting Student Achievement First Act*, 2026 carries a reassuring name—but a closer look at what Bill 101 actually does reveals a bill that serves neither students nor the communities that depend on public education.

At its core, the legislation replaces the Director of Education with a 'Chief Executive Officer' (CEO) who must hold business qualifications—and who, crucially, trustees can hire but not fire. This structural shift places a corporate governance structure at the heart of an institution whose purpose is child development, not profit generation. When a CEO answers only to the Minister rather than to locally elected trustees, accountability flows upward to Queen's Park—not outward to parents and communities.

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association has documented troubling decisions already being made under supervised boards without public consultation—including lifting class size caps, eliminating programs, and reducing supports for students in high-needs communities and those

with special education needs. These are precisely the students Bill 101 claims to champion.

Decisions in supervised boards are being made by highly paid individuals—earning as much as \$350,000 annually—accountable only to the Minister of Education, not to local communities. That is not increased accountability. It is increased authority, disguised as accountability, transferred to those less accessible to the public.

Meanwhile, school boards have accumulated an inflation adjusted funding loss of approximately \$1,500 per student since 2018, and the 2026 provincial budget includes a further 3.5 per cent cut to education. Bill 101 does nothing to address this structural underfunding—the actual driver of school board instability.

Ontario students deserve legislation that invests in classrooms, supports vulnerable learners, and strengthens local democratic oversight. Bill 101 does the opposite.

In solidarity,



**Chris Cowley, President**

