



February 10, 2023

Linda Lacroix, Registrar and CEO Ontario College of Teachers
101 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 0A1

Dear Ms. Lacroix,

As the representatives of over 4000 ETFO – Toronto Occasional Teachers who teach in the Toronto District School Board, we are writing to you to express our strong disapproval of the recent 17.64% fee increase for our members.

Our members are precarious workers who face significant challenges in their classrooms and in their personal lives. These challenges include dealing with the impact of a pandemic, increasing violence in the classroom, underfunding which impacts resources, and support for students with special needs. As we know, underfunding results in serious long lasting negative effects on our communities.

Furthermore, like many precarious workers in Ontario, Occasional Teachers have been struggling with serious economic challenges. With wage increases of only 1% over several years, it is shocking and unrealistic to raise the membership fee by almost 18%.

We call on the OCT to reverse this excessive fee increase. Perhaps, it is time for OCT to consider decreasing expenditures rather than increasing member fees (e.g., location on Bloor Street – one of the most expensive real estate in Ontario – and find a new more economical office rental). The teachers of Ontario should not have to shoulder the burden of OCT's unnecessary expenses.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Christina Meynell', written in a cursive style.

Christina Meynell, President

Marisa Gallippi, First Vice President
Sarah Boomhower, Second Vice President
ETFO Toronto Occasional Teachers' Executive



Ontario's Teaching Regulator
L'organisme de réglementation
de l'enseignement en Ontario

February 14, 2023

Christina Meynell, OCT
President
ETFO - Toronto Occasional Teachers
17 Fairmeadow Avenue, Suite 209
North York, ON M2P 1W6

Dear Ms. Meynell,

Thank you for your letter and for sharing your concerns about the current Annual Membership Fee, which was approved by Council during its December 2022 meeting.

The College makes every effort to keep the fee as low as possible. Prudent fiscal management and the use of reserve funds had allowed us to keep the previous fee in place since 2020. However, the accumulated effects of heightened inflation, additional legislated programs, and investments required to meet increased service volumes and expectations, rendered that approach unsustainable. Furthermore, Council has directed us to save remaining reserve funding for future emergency costs.

A careful review of the College's office space was conducted as part of our budget process. As of now, it is more cost-effective to stay in our current location. However, we will continue to examine our physical footprint to determine if it would be beneficial to relocate or reduce our office space.

The current fee is necessary to fulfill our legislated mandate, and we remain committed to the responsible budget management that allows it to remain the second-lowest of all regulated professions in Ontario.

Regards,

Linda Lacroix, OCT
Registrar & CEO

Marisa Gallippi, First Vice President
Sarah Boomhower, Second Vice President
ETFO Toronto Occasional Teachers' Executive