



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

October 21, 2021

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Lecce,

On behalf of future council and committee members of the Ontario College of Teachers, I write to applaud the additional governance efficiencies introduced through Bill 13, *Supporting People and Businesses Act*. The smaller council size and increased flexibility in forming panels of statutory committees are welcome supports to the modernized governance structure now taking shape.

I am also writing in support of a request to amend Bill 13 that the College will be making before the standing committee considering the Bill.

As currently written, the amendments to incorporate the professional designation, Ontario Certified Teacher, into legislation make no provision for who may use the designation. If the language stays as is, teachers who have been found guilty of professional misconduct and are suspended can use the designation. Teachers who were registered before the creation of the College, and have never sought membership with the College, can also use the designation.

The request to the standing committee will focus on language included in the legislation of other regulatory bodies, notably the Early Childhood Educators Act which includes a specific provision that suspended members are not considered members during the suspension and are therefore, not entitled to use the designation of that profession.

The requested amendment to the Ontario College of Teachers Act will mirror such language to include a new subsection (1.1):

- 14 (1) Every person who holds a certificate of qualification and registration is a member of the College, subject to any term, condition or limitation to which the certificate is subject.

(1.1) Despite subsection (1), a person whose certificate of qualification and registration is suspended or inactive/non-practising status is not a member of the College during the period of suspension or inactivity.

We know that the vast majority of Ontario's teachers are highly skilled, competent and maintain high standards to protect and serve Ontario's students. The designation must be a title exclusive to those teachers. Enabling teachers who are suspended for misconduct or inactive in the profession to use this designation undermines the public trust in what the designation stands for.

The College looks forward to presenting to the standing committee and seeing these changes incorporated into the final version of this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Boniferno', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Boniferno
Transition Supervisory Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Derek Haime', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Derek Haime, OCT
Registrar and Chief Executive Officer

PB/DH/TC/tk-ccs