



Setting the Standard for Great Teaching
Fixer la norme pour un enseignement de qualité

December 12, 2019

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

Dear Minister Lecce,

Re: Mathematics Proficiency Test – Reapplication with Conditions and Statement on Certificate and Public Register

At its December 5-6, 2019 meeting, the College's Council considered motions related to the Mathematics Proficiency Test, as defined in Proficiency in Mathematics Regulation (O. Reg. 271/19) of the *Ontario College of Teachers Act*. The motions related to (1) amending the Teachers' Qualifications Regulation (Regulation 176/10 or "TQR") to allow for the reapplication of an internationally educated teacher ("IET") who lost certification due to their inability to provide successful completion of the test within two years and (2) placing a statement indicating successful completion of the test on a member's certificate of qualification and registration and the public register.

Reapplication with Conditions

Currently, IET applicants can be certified with conditions, such as coursework, to make up any gaps with Ontario's four-semester teacher education programs. These conditions are placed on a certificate for five years. If the conditions are not met in five years, the certificate will expire. The Registrar can grant a one-year extension if presented with evidence of exceptional circumstances for not meeting the conditions.

The Mathematics Proficiency Test certification requirement impacts this current certification with conditions framework. An IET certified after March 30, 2020 will now have to provide evidence of successful completion of the math test within two years of initial certification. If evidence of successful completion of the math test is not provided within two years, the certificate will expire. If their certificate has expired, the IET, now a former College member, can reapply for certification if they provide evidence of successful completion of (1) the math test and (2) all coursework conditions. As a result, the five year regulatory timeframe to satisfy coursework conditions is, in effect, shortened to a two year timeframe. In order to provide IETs with the full five years to complete their coursework conditions, the certification with conditions framework requires amendment.

The College proposes amending the TQR so that upon reapplication, coursework conditions that remained on the certificate at the time of expiry will be placed on certificate to reflect the remaining timeline provided.

Additionally, a new provision in regulation is required to indicate that an individual who does not provide evidence of successful completion of the math test within two years will have their certificate expire. This new provision is necessary to provide these former College members with access to the reapplication route to certification for expired certificates in the TQR. The changes to the framework would be beneficial for an IET as upon reapplication, the IET may seek employment as a certified teacher while satisfying their outstanding coursework conditions.

At its December 5-6, 2019 meeting, Council approved the following motion:

That Council recommend:

That the Minister of Education amend the Teachers' Qualifications Regulation (Regulation 176/10 - TQR) to permit applicants whose certificates have expired after two years, as a result of not providing evidence of successful completion of the math proficiency test, a route to reapplication that respects the original five year timeframe for conditions imposed under s. 12 of the TQR.

Statement on Certificate and Public Register

On September 25, 2019, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Education wrote to the College requesting that Council, "...Consider amending Ontario Regulation 176/10 (Teachers' Qualifications) to provide that a member's certificate of qualification and registration shall indicate that a member has successfully completed the math proficiency test. The notation would highlight the commitment to public accountability and high standards of teaching excellence."

In light of this request, Council considered amendments to the TQR and College bylaws to place a statement indicating successful completion of the Mathematics Proficiency Test on the certificate and public register, respectively. A lengthy Q&A period was followed by a robust debate.

At its December 5-6, 2019 meeting, Council considered, but did not approve the following motion:

- 1. That Council recommend that the Minister of Education amend the Teachers' Qualifications Regulation (Regulation 176/10) to place a statement on a certificate indicating successful completion of the Mathematics Proficiency Test, and**
- 2. That Council approve an amendment, by addition, to s. 25.01 of the College bylaws, as set out below:**

25.01 In addition to the information prescribed by section 23 of the Act, the register shall contain:

...

2.01(n) a statement indicating successful completion of the mathematics proficiency test by a member, as identified to the Registrar pursuant to s. 4 (7) of Regulation 271/19 of the Ontario College of Teachers Act.

Although Council understood the intention to instill public confidence in the profession, they expressed concerns that a statement of successful completion of the Mathematics Proficiency Test on the certificate and public register would result in an inequity between members who have such a statement on their public register pages and those who do not. Council members expressed that placing such a notation may result in unintended consequences, such as the potential to cause confusion for the public with regards to the qualifications of members. Finally, Council members noted the difference between the treatment of the successful completion of the Mathematics Proficiency Test when compared to other certification requirements that are not placed on the certificate or the public register.

We look forward to working with you and Ministry officials to enact changes in regulation to support the implementation of the Mathematics Proficiency Test in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Nicole van Woudenberg, OCT
Chair of Council



Michael Salvatori, OCT
Chief Executive Officer and Registrar

MS/SR/dm-pol