



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

December 8, 2020

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

Dear Minister Lecce,

I am writing to express our appreciation for your address to Council on December 3, 2020. As we all navigate these unprecedented times, the opportunity to dialogue with you and your Parliamentary Assistant Sam Oosterhoff supports our mandate as prescribed in the OCTA. Collectively, we focus on protecting Ontario's students and maintaining the public trust. Council appreciated your acknowledgement of the continued professionalism of Ontario Certified Teachers, especially during the pandemic.


The 8th Council's focus has been on protecting students and ensuring Ontario Certified Teachers are equipped with professional advice to provide safe and supportive learning environments. Council's approval of a professional advisory on maintaining professional boundaries is one such example. Our collaborative efforts with ministry colleagues to recognize hatred as a form of professional misconduct and introduce an additional qualification course focused on anti-Black racism aims to ensure equal learning opportunities for all Ontario students.

The College is at the forefront of regulatory governance modernization with the amendments introduced in Bill 229. The majority of these changes reflect the recommendations from Council building on those of the independent review of governance. Our 35 Council members are committed to what they've started and wish to serve their full term. We were pleased to hear your willingness to support the request for dialogue between the Transitional Supervisory Officer and the members of the 8th Council. This will best situate the self-regulatory body to mitigate risk in carrying-out our mandate.

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As one of Canada's largest self-regulating bodies, the College is committed to transparency and accountability to the public. Our duty to serve and protect the public interest drives our activities and initiatives. We look forward to continuing a collaborative dialogue as we move to modernize professional self-regulation and achieve our shared goals for student safety and a qualified teaching profession.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole van Woudenberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicole van Woudenberg, OCT
Chair of Council

Copy: Chantal Bélisle, Deputy Registrar, OCT

Nvw/CB/TC/CL-ccs