



January 23, 2023

Sent via email: [lacroix@oct.ca](mailto:lacroix@oct.ca)

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

Dear Linda Lacroix:

## **OTF Calls on OCT to Reverse and Refund Fee Increase!**

The Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) Governing Council recently approved its 2023 budget, which included an outrageous 17.64% membership fee increase. At the January 13th Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) Board meeting, Governors from the four teacher Affiliates voted unanimously to condemn the OCT fee increase. As the stakeholders who represent the teachers of Ontario in the publicly funded education system, OTF and its Affiliates vehemently oppose this fee increase by OCT.

It is harmful that at a time that our members, like many Canadians, are facing the challenges of inflation and a higher cost of living, the OCT would increase this mandatory fee. This fee increase also serves as a further deterrent to those considering teaching as a career, while the profession is already grappling with issues of teacher supply and retention.

Despite the College identifying transparency and accountability as strategic priorities, this budget with its extraordinary fee increase was developed with no input or consultation with any stakeholder groups and announced less than one month prior to taking effect.

We call on the OCT to improve its transparency to its members and to reverse and refund its fee increase. Our members deserve better.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nathan Core', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Nathan Core**  
President

NC/am

cc *Diana Miles, Governing Council Chair*  
*Abena Buahene*  
*Jonathan Davey*  
*Peter Dinsdale*  
*Douglas Gosse*  
*Elaine Lajeunesse*

*Martine Lewis*  
*Jonathan Rose*  
*Imran Syed*  
*Maria Vasanelli, OCT*  
*Tammy Webster, OCT*  
*Valerie Williamson, OCT*



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

January 24, 2023

Nathan Core  
Suite 100  
10 Alcorn Avenue  
Toronto, ON M4V 3A9

Dear Nathan Core,

Thank you for your message. We hear your concerns and recognize your frustration regarding inflation.

College Council and management strive to keep our member fee as low as possible. The College's membership fee is the second lowest amongst all of Ontario's [regulators](#). To keep the fee fixed for the last three years, we relied on drawing from reserve funds to absorb the impacts of inflation, which is a common practice among regulators.

However, the College can no longer afford to draw down on reserves and Council has directed us to save remaining funds for contingency requirements.

Over the past year, additional requirements have stretched existing resources, including staffing. The 2023 budget includes a significant investment in new Membership Services staff and technology to meet increased customer service expectations and volumes.

College Council approved the budget at their meeting on December 8, 2022. Council meetings are open to the public and meeting agendas, alongside documents such as the budget, are also posted online in advance of meetings.

At the heart of our mandate are Ontario's students, their well-being, safety and opportunities for learning, development and growth. The 2023 membership fee is required to fulfill that mandate.

On behalf of the College, I thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Linda Lacroix, OCT  
Registrar & CEO

Cc: Diana Miles, Chair of Council