



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

October 3, 2025

Chris Cowley, OCT
President
Ontario Teachers' Federation
10 Alcorn Avenue, Suite 100
Toronto ON M4V 3A9

Dear Mr. Cowley,

Thank you for your letter of September 25, 2025 and your interest in the work of the Council of the Ontario College of Teachers.

Your review of our strategic plan is welcome. You are correct that the plan includes the goal of a clear and independent role in the education system. It was developed with input from multiple stakeholders, including your organization. We maintain our independence by engaging with all stakeholders in an equal and measured way.

In June 2023, Council approved a public and stakeholder engagement pathways document confirming the College's commitment to engaging with members of the public and education stakeholders. Stakeholders are invited to share information that may be of interest to Council by submitting it via the Registrar and CEO. Any communications found to be related to governance and within Council's purview will then flow through to the Council Chair and/or Council (at the Council Chair's direction).

I invite you to share the information you suggest would be relevant to Council in their governance role. You are welcome to share directly with the College's Registrar and CEO Linda Lacroix, OCT/EAO at llacroix@oct.ca. This process remains the same for any future outreach to Council or to the Council Chair.

In the interim, I share Council's gratitude for OTF's input on multiple initiatives that serve the College's mandate of protecting the public interest, including the development of the Focus on Teaching Survey, the refresh of the standards for the profession, additional qualification guideline development and advisories to the profession. I also note the biannual meetings between OTF and members of the College's Professional Conduct, Standards of Practice and Accreditation and Membership Services teams. These are noteworthy examples of valued collaboration and consultation between important education stakeholders.

On behalf of the members of the Council, congratulations on your third term as President of the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF). Your experience and dedication will be a continued benefit to Ontario's students and their teachers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Webster', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tammy Webster, OCT
Acting Chair of Council

Copy: Linda Lacroix, OCT/EAO
Registrar and Chief Executive Officer

TW/SR/SW/tc-pgt



September 25, 2025

Tammy Webster,
Chair, Governing Council
Ontario College of Teachers
101 Bloor Street West
Toronto, ON
M5S 0A1

Dear Chair Webster and Members of the Governing Council,

I have recently had the opportunity to review the Ontario College of Teachers' Strategic Plan (2024–2028). I was encouraged to see the College's commitment to maintaining independence from government influence in its decision-making and to engaging stakeholders in a meaningful and structured way.

As I begin my term as President of the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF), I would like to note that the opportunity for the OTF President to address the Governing Council has not occurred since my previous term in 2021–2022. Given the significant changes in Ontario's education sector over the past four years, I believe this is an opportune moment for OTF to re-engage directly with the Council. A presentation at an upcoming meeting would provide a constructive forum to explore areas of mutual interest and to share priorities identified by our members.

In the spirit of fostering effective consultation and collaboration, I respectfully request that the Council consider adopting a policy that would provide the OTF President with the opportunity to meet annually with the Governing Council—similar to the provision afforded to the Minister of Education under the Ontario College of Teachers Act.

While I remain open to ongoing discussions with the Chair throughout the year, I believe it is of significant value for the Council to hear directly from OTF as the collective voice of Ontario's teachers. Such engagement would offer valuable insight into the perspectives and concerns of the profession, supporting the Council's ongoing work in shaping the future of teaching in Ontario.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to the possibility of renewed high-level dialogue between our organizations.

Sincerely,

Chris Cowley
President
Ontario Teachers' Federation