



Briefing Note

Proposed Regulatory Amendments – Technological Education

Issue

The College is requesting that Ontario Regulation 176/10 (Teachers' Qualifications) be amended to reduce the work experience requirement for Technological Education (Tech Ed) teachers from five years to four years. The new reduced work experience requirement can be satisfied through one of two ways: 1) four years of work experience, or 2) a combination of post-secondary education and a minimum of two years of work experience.

Background

In response to the province's identified need for qualified Tech Ed teachers, the College initiated a review of the qualification requirements for those teachers. The College explored possible changes to the Teachers' Qualifications Regulation to align with current technological education standards, while also facilitating access and reducing barriers to the profession for potential candidates with significant work experience.

In February 2023, a College staff working group began developing proposed changes to the technological education qualification requirements. To inform this work, the working group administered a survey and received responses from more than 60 education stakeholders.

Stakeholder groups included education administrators from the Council of Ontario Directors of Education and the Ontario Principals' Council, the Ontario Teachers' Federation and its affiliates, the Ontario Council for Technology Education, Tech Ed school board leads, school boards, Faculties of Education, and technological education additional qualification providers.

Survey Responses

The College's survey of education stakeholders requested feedback on a proposal that would reduce the work experience requirement or Tech Ed teachers from five years to three years.

Most school board Tech Ed leads, members' organizations such as Ontario Teachers' Federation and Ontario Council for Technology Education, and some Faculties of Education indicated that this proposal would have a negative or neutral impact on technological education in Ontario. Responses provided included:

- Tech Ed teachers would lack the necessary experience to ensure student safety and quality of learning – the value of the minimum two years of work experience was emphasized;
- The perception of undervaluing the importance of Tech Ed teachers was raised as a concern; and

- The proposal would not increase the number of Tech Ed teachers in Ontario.

By contrast, the Council of Directors of Education and several Faculties of Education indicated that this proposal would have a positive impact on technological education in Ontario, indicating that:

- The number of Tech Ed candidates and teachers in Ontario would increase;
- Additional opportunities would arise for Tech Ed candidates and teachers to meet the work experience/post-secondary criteria as a component of their academic program;
- No appreciable difference in the quality-of-service delivery was anticipated; and
- No specific safety concerns were raised.

Recommendation

Given the diverging and compelling views shared by stakeholders, the College has modified its initial proposal by recommending a reduction in the total work experience requirement to four years rather than three years. The current minimum two-year work experience requirement, if used in combination with post-secondary education, would also be maintained.

The College is therefore recommending that Council request that the Minister of Education make the following amendments to the Teachers' Qualifications Regulation:

1(3) For the purposes of this Regulation, an applicant for a general, transitional, multi-session transitional or temporary certificate of qualification and registration holds technological qualifications if,

(a) he or she holds a secondary school graduation diploma or has qualifications that the College considers to be equivalent to holding such a diploma;

(b) he or she has five four years of work experience, including business or industrial experience, or a combination of post-secondary education and work experience acceptable to the College that totaled five four years and that included

(i) at least two years of work experience, including business or industrial experience, at least four months of which were continuous, and

(ii) post-secondary education acceptable to the College consisting of,

(A) a program leading to an acceptable post-secondary degree or an acceptable certificate, diploma or advanced diploma, or

(B) an apprenticeship program acceptable to the College; and

(c) in the work experience referred to in clause (b), he or she demonstrated competency, based on an assessment of technical skills and knowledge, related to a technological education subject listed in Schedule B.

Next Steps

If Council approves this recommendation, College staff will work with the Ministry of Education to draft regulations for Council's approval at a subsequent Council meeting.

Once the draft regulations have been approved, the College will communicate in writing with all stakeholders the

implications of the regulatory amendments and work with them to ensure that the regulations are correctly interpreted and applied. Specifically, the College will work with Faculties of Education to support them as they make necessary changes to their prerequisites for admission into technological education programs.

Prepared by:

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