

Retiring? Keep your status!



Ontario
College of Teachers
Ordre des
enseignantes et
des enseignants
de l'Ontario

Protect and preserve your professional status as an Ontario Certified Teacher through College membership

Once an educator, always an educator

Many educators recognize that teaching is a calling, an identity, and a valuable gift to society. Teaching to empower others is a deeply meaningful practice. It fosters a mindset that endures long after the last lesson plan is delivered. This is why so many retired teachers, principals, vice-principals and other College members choose to maintain their membership in the Ontario College of Teachers.

Maintaining your College membership as an Ontario Certified Teacher (OCT) makes retirement a shift into something new and exciting.

By supporting and strengthening the profession, you help to make current and aspiring educators more effective in teaching future generations of students. Remaining active in your profession by retaining your licence to teach lets you keep abreast of trends and issues in a profession that has meant so much to you for so long. It also provides a productive way to stay connected with people who know and understand you like no one else in your life — your fellow educators.

When you preserve your professional status as an OCT, you continue to learn about and affect regulatory changes in teaching, share what you've learned, access resources and — if you want — teach part-time.

Understand regulatory shifts

It's natural to care about your profession and your professional identity after retirement. As a College member in good standing, you can keep tabs on Ontario's ever changing education landscape, new regulatory developments and their implications for teacher education and practice. You'll also better understand how new legislation might affect you as a retired teacher, principal or vice-principal. By remaining connected, you can have more informed discussions about professional practice with your peers in the profession, with teachers you may be mentoring, and with others in your life.

Share your wisdom

Take part in surveys and focus groups on important issues relating to the practice and regulation of teaching in Ontario. Provide your perspectives on teacher education programs, lifelong learning opportunities and safety in learning environments. Have your say on issue-specific polls about proposed legislation, regulatory amendments and new additional qualification courses. And help to ensure the ongoing relevance and value of your member magazine, *Professionally Speaking*. By continuing to contribute your input and ideas, you can play a meaningful role in protecting your profession and helping to guide its regulator.

Influence decision-making

Maintain your status as an OCT and you will continue to enjoy the privilege of participating in Council elections by running for office*, nominating others, and



Ontario College of Teachers
101 Bloor Street West
Toronto ON M5S 0A1

Telephone: 416-961-8800
Fax: 416-961-8822
Toll-free in Ontario: 1-888-534-2222
Email: info@oct.ca
www.oct.ca

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À la retraite? Restez membre!

voting. Help to shape the priorities and decisions of Council and its committees regarding key issues such as the regulation of the profession, teacher education and disciplinary procedures. By voting for and/or participating on Council, you'll be able to ensure that the College continues to best serve the needs of its members, the profession and society.

** You are eligible to nominate someone or run for the part-time position on Council in the region in which you live provided you worked a minimum of 10 days in the year preceding the last date for the submission of nominations, you are an Ontario resident, and you are a member in good standing with the College.*

Stay informed

Teaching has been a central part of your life and identity for many years and your interest in what happens in the profession doesn't disappear in retirement. As a member in good standing, you remain in the know on the most pressing issues and events by receiving regular member communications from the College. These include:

- *Professionally Speaking*, the official publication of the Ontario College of Teachers, keeps you updated on the accomplishments of your peers, regulatory developments, the latest education books, and new teaching strategies, tools and technologies. Packed with useful information and compelling stories, *Professionally Speaking* is mailed four times a year directly to you.
- The monthly electronic newsletter *Your College and You* provides a concise digital snapshot of developments, issues and trends affecting the profession.

Access valuable resources

A passion for knowledge and learning is at the heart of effective teaching. Continue to nurture your passion as an OCT in retirement by maintaining access to the College's Margaret Wilson Library. With a circulating collection of more than 12,000 books, ebooks and DVDs, including 1,400-plus French-language books, it's a respected educational source of information directly and indirectly related to professional practice, including leadership, mentoring, emotional intelligence and management.

You can browse the collection in whichever way is most convenient: in person at the College's office in downtown Toronto, on its website, or via its mobile application. Have books and DVDs mailed free directly to your home. If you're interested in the latest academic thinking on pedagogy,

you can also access thousands of full-text journal articles through the library's research databases.

Maintain your status

The OCT designation is much more than a confirmation of your status as a certified teacher. It's your statement of pride to the world about what you've worked for and achieved throughout your journey as an educator. Keeping your College membership in retirement allows you to reflect the significant and specialized knowledge, skills and experience that you cultivated throughout your career, and that you passionately invested into your practice. It is also a reminder to the public of the valuable contributions that teachers as a whole make to the development and wellbeing of our children, and to the social and economic advancement of the

province. You've earned your place in the profession, and maintaining your status in good standing with the College is one important way to remain a part of it.

Stay engaged

Just because you've retired, doesn't mean your work in the classroom has to end. As an OCT in good standing, you'll be able to work on an occasional basis from time to time.* Your ongoing involvement can help you to stay engaged and relevant. You may also be eligible to serve on Council in one of the part-time or full-time positions. At the same time, your extensive experience and expertise will be a valuable resource for the school system.

** Always check with your pension plan to confirm how the limitations apply to you.*

Make the right choice

Make the decision to keep your OCT good standing status. Give back to the profession. Help those newest to the calling by contributing your thoughts, insights and expertise. Staying connected to the Ontario College of Teachers in your retirement allows you to continue engaging with a profession you know and love, and to play an active and meaningful role in its advancement. It's also a way for you to continue to build your legacy of valuable work in education, which will positively impact the health and future of the profession and the lives and learning of Ontario's students.

Learn more about keeping your membership alive at oct.ca.

