



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

# Memorandum

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**Date:** February 16, 2001

**To:** Directors of Education  
Deans, Faculties of Education  
Council of Directors of Education  
Supervisory Officers Organizations  
Principals Organizations  
OTF and Affiliates  
Deputy Minister of Education  
Design and Technology Teachers of Ontario

**From:** J.W. (Joe) Atkinson, Registrar and Chief Executive Officer

**Subject:** **Decertification of Teachers with Design and Technology Qualifications**

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The College is aware of concerns being expressed by some teachers who hold Design and Technology qualifications that they have been decertified and their qualifications rendered invalid.

We have prepared the attached information sheet, which we believe will address these concerns and accurately describe the actions that are taken when curriculum changes and qualifications are adjusted.

I would ask you to provide this information to the appropriate staff in your organization. While the particular information sheet addresses the issue of Design and Technology, the process is the same for any qualification that may be affected by changes to curriculum.

I appreciate your assistance in ensuring that teachers and others have accurate information.

If you require any additional information, please contact Doug Wilson, Deputy Registrar, at 416-961-8800 or toll free at 1-888-534-2222, Ext. 212, or Margaret Aubé, Senior Research Analyst, at 416-961-8800 or toll free at 1-888-534-2222, Ext. 225.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J.W. Atkinson".

J.W.(Joe) Atkinson

Encl.

Copy ADM, SPESPD, Ministry of Education, Executive Director, Teacher Testing Project,  
MOE Director, Policy & Program Branch, MOE Acting Director, Field Services, MOE



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**Status of Design and Technology Qualifications**

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Some members of the College who hold Design and Technology qualifications are concerned that, as a result of changes to the Ontario curriculum and proposed changes to the Teachers' Qualifications Regulation, the College has decertified them and that their qualifications in Design and Technology are no longer valid.

The College has not decertified qualifications in Design and Technology. The qualifications teachers have earned continue to be valid.

Periodically, the Ministry of Education introduces new curriculum. When it does, the Ministry normally retains, revises, integrates or deletes old curriculum content. At the same time, the certifying body – formerly the Ministry of Education, now the Ontario College of Teachers – normally revises the relevant regulations and schedules, which define the qualifications that teachers can earn.

However, provisions may be set out in Section 19 of Regulation 298, Operation of Schools – General, made under the *Education Act*, to enable teachers who held qualifications that are no longer issued to be able to be “assigned or appointed to teach courses that are equivalent to those courses that appear” on the teacher’s certificate. At times, the Ministry may also issue a policy memo to clarify teaching assignments.

This is what was done in the case of Design and Technology in 1995, when the Broad-based Technological Education curriculum was issued. A memo issued by the former Deputy Minister of Education, Charles Pascal, in September 1995 enabled principals to assign teachers with Design and Technology qualifications to teach Technological Design.

As a consequence of the Ministry’s introduction of new curriculum policy documents, the College’s Council has approved changes to Regulation 184/97, Teachers’ Qualifications, including changes to the schedules, and has submitted these recommendations to the Minister of Education for approval by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

The College has also initiated discussions with the Ministry about the relationship of courses in the new curriculum, qualifications that currently appear on teachers’ Certificates of Qualification and new qualification courses that should be offered.

Since the new elementary and secondary curriculum policy documents - Science and Technology, Grades 1- 8 and Technological Education, Grades 9 & 10 and Grades 11 & 12 - contain design and technology concepts, part of the discussion has focused on identifying the courses in the new curriculum that can be taught by teachers who hold Design and Technology qualifications.

The Ministry has indicated that section 19 (4) of Regulation 298 enables a principal to assign a teacher with an Intermediate basic qualification and a Design and Technology qualification to teach Science and Technology in Grades 7 and 8. The Ministry memo issued in 1995 also enables principals to assign teachers with an Intermediate basic qualification and a Design and Technology qualification to teach Technological Design in Grades 10. Those with a Senior basic qualification and Design and Technology may be assigned to teach Technological Design in Grades 11 and 12. Questions about other staff assignment issues, including the qualifications needed to assign teachers to teach the Grade 9 Integrated Technology course, should be directed to the local District Office of the Ministry of Education.

The College continues to certify teachers who have completed either pre-service or in-service courses in Design and Technology. When the regulatory changes have been approved by the government, the College intends to phase out the granting of qualifications under the three-part Design and Technology specialist qualification program over a period of years so that teachers who have begun the program may complete it.

Even after the College has the authority to stop granting new qualifications in this area, teachers with qualifications in Design and Technology will not be decertified. They will continue to hold the qualifications they have earned.