



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

Memo

Date: March 11, 2022
To: Council of the Ontario College of Teachers
From: Diana Miles, Council Chair
Subject: Report to Council – March 24, 2022

Hello et Bonjour. I am pleased to present to you my first report as Council Chair under the Ontario College of Teachers' newly modernized governance model.

The transition to this new model was years in the making, requiring extensive support from a long list of education stakeholders.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to begin by thanking Minister Lecce and his team at the Ministry of Education.

They introduced, amended and solidified the legislation and regulations needed by the College to dissolve an outdated structure and implement one that is more balanced, effective and efficient.

I also extend my appreciation to Paul Boniferro, who served as the College's Transition Supervisory Officer for a year. In his role, Paul acted in place of Council, supporting the College's work while overseeing its journey to the governance model we have today. A model that provides a renewed focus on the public interest and student safety.

Ontario's education system is robust and multi-faceted. As Ontario's teaching regulator, the Ontario College of Teachers protects students by overseeing the regulation of educators, and many others play unique, yet equally important roles in supporting our education system. Stakeholders such as teachers' federations, school boards, trustees, school councils and supervisory officers, just to name a few. We thank our colleagues in education for your ongoing collaboration, dialogue, support and understanding.

I look at our meeting attendees and I see a reflection of Ontario's tremendous diversity. I also see dedication. Be it as an Ontario Certified Teacher or as a member of the public, every one of you has committed to sharing your time, knowledge and expertise to serve Ontario's more than two million students by helping to govern the province's teaching profession. Your commitment to the public interest critical to the fulfilment of the College's mandate and I know that your work here with us will be extremely rewarding.

I would also like to thank our Registrar and CEO, Derek Haime and his highly skilled team for supporting the transition every step of the way.

In those three years that it has taken to make this important transition, the College's team oversaw the independent review which provided the recommendations for change. These recommendations guided the former Council to advise the government on what was required to improve regulation. Through the College's ongoing dialogue with the government, that advice became legislation. And in turn, that legislation led to implementation and to where we are today: our first quarterly Council meeting applying a model of self-regulation that aligns with global best practices and governance standards.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Our terms of office began on January 1, 2022, and since then, a number of activities have already taken place, including:

Orientation and Training

In early January, more than 130 individuals appointed to Council, committees and rosters of panellists received extensive training from the College's staff and external governance and legal advisors in areas including:

- the role of a regulator
- changes to the regulatory landscape
- good governance in this new environment, where the key is to ensure the independence of day-to-day regulatory functions from the high-quality policy development functions of Council

All of which will continue to support the best interests of students, competence of teachers and confidence of the public.

This thorough training ensured we could hit the ground running when the transfer of governing authority took place on February 1, 2022.

Special Meeting of Council

On March 2nd, a special meeting of Council was held to review proposed amendments to Ontario Regulations 176/10 and 347/02, (Teachers' Qualifications and Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs, respectively).

The regulatory amendments ensure that several Additional Qualification courses are appropriately named, using accepted sector language. The amendments also create 3 new AQs: a **Supervisory Officer Development** course; a **Teaching Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing** course; and an **Anti-Audism** course. Together, these updates will better reflect

the content of existing courses and create new opportunities for ongoing teacher education in Ontario.

Council approved the proposed amendments, which have been sent to the Ministry of Education for filing.

Other areas

We have recently been advised that our Registrar and CEO, Derek Haime, will be taking an immediate and extended leave of absence for medical reasons. We all join to wish Derek a quick recovery. During Derek's absence, our Deputy Registrar, Chantal Bélisle, will be supporting the organization as Acting Registrar and CEO. Chantal has been with the Ontario Teachers College for 14 years, and has held the role of both Deputy Registrar, and previously also fulfilled the role of Acting Registrar and CEO, amongst other roles. I know that we are in good hands under Chantal's continuing leadership of the organization.

Council's Annual Work Plan

Augmenting the **Training and Development Plan** we just reviewed, I look forward to discussing the proposed **Annual Work Plan for Council** and **Schedule of Committee Reports** with you in a few moments. Documents like these are foundational to good governance and will set this Council on a clear path of learning and strategic decision-making over the coming months and years.

Epilogue

The focus of Q1-2022 has been for those of us on Council, committees or rosters to understand our roles and responsibilities. This detailed and crucial training enabled us to begin our work in earnest. We have had a strong start and with your assistance I look forward to an even more productive second quarter.