

**Memorandum To:** Diana Miles  
Chair of Council  
Ontario College of Teachers

Linda Lacroix  
Registrar and Chief Executive Officer  
Ontario College of Teachers

**From:** Phil Graham  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Strategic Policy and Programs Division

**Date:** June 22, 2023

**Subject** Passage of Bill 98, *The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023*

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I am writing to inform you that Bill 98, *The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023*, has passed and received Royal Assent on June 8, 2023 and is now law. This milestone marks a significant step forward in our collective efforts to deliver a world-class education system that is uniformly focused on improving student outcomes.

As you know, through this Bill, amendments were made to the *Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996* (OCTA) to increase public confidence in the regulation of the teaching profession, the protection of students and efficiency in the Ontario College of Teachers (the College) investigations and discipline operations.

The following amendments came into force on the day the Bill received Royal Assent (i.e. June 8, 2023.)

1. Requiring that orders made by the Discipline Committee relating to professional misconduct are not stayed on appeal.
2. Requiring that members who had their certificate suspended or revoked and who wish to reinstate must first successfully complete the Sexual Abuse Prevention Program requirements.

3. Expanding the fine mechanism if employers fail to provide additional information to the OCT on teacher discipline matters.
4. Removing the provision that the employer becomes the complainant to a matter when a report required by the OCTA is filed.
5. Granting authority to the Investigation Committee to refer a matter directly to the Discipline Committee where a member is convicted or found guilty of a Criminal Code offence that is also the subject matter of a complaint.
6. Granting authority to the Investigation Committee when a determination is made on a complaint against a member to require the member to undertake remedial training or education.
7. Allowing the Discipline Committee to make a decision without holding a hearing or allowing the member to make submissions if the member has been found guilty of a criminal sexual offence that requires mandatory revocation under the OCTA.
8. Allowing for student subjects of alleged sexual abuse, child pornography or criminal sexual acts by any member (not only their direct teachers) to receive funding for therapy and counselling.
9. Clarifying the application timelines for certificate reinstatement for individuals who had their certificates revoked retroactively, to specify that it is five years from the date of retroactive revocation before an individual may apply for reinstatement from the College.
10. Adding foundational professional teacher education program requirements in the OCTA, including math and literacy requirements in the Ontario curriculum, as prescribed in regulation.

The following amendments will come into effect, at a later date, upon Proclamation, to allow the College time to prepare for implementation:

1. Setting out the criteria for use of the Inactive/Non-Practising title in by-law, and establishing by-law making authority respecting the criteria for the use of the Inactive/ Non-Practicing title.
2. Allowing the Registrar to revoke a certificate suspended for failure to pay fees or provide information to the College if the suspension is not removed after 3 years, and allowing for a member whose certificate has been revoked to apply for a new certificate in accordance with the regulations.

The ministry is committed to engaging with key sector partners to support successful implementation. As you know, ministry staff have been engaging with the College on

other aspects of Bill 98 and its associated reforms, including on priority regulations to be implemented by the start of the 2023/24 school year. These priority regulations will reduce certification timelines for internationally educated teachers and create a permanent certification pathway for second year Initial Teacher Education teacher candidates to work as teachers while they are finishing school.

Following this priority work over the summer, we will focus our collaboration on the development of a new teacher certificate for those with qualifications in priority areas, including technological education teachers, internationally educated teachers, Indigenous language teachers, and French language teachers and identify opportunities for accelerated Initial Teacher Education programs to attract skilled professionals and individuals with unique training or pursuing teaching as a second career.

In addition, we look forward to continued work with the College and our faculty partners on ensuring proficiency of teacher candidates in math, literacy, reading, special education, mental health, the use of technology in the classroom, and leadership skills – along with work on reforms to divisional structures of Initial Teacher Education to reflect new teacher qualifications and to align with other Canadian jurisdictions.

I express nothing but gratitude and optimism for our collaborative work ahead to support successful implementation and appreciate the commitment of the College to supporting Ontario's students and families.

Sincerely,

Phil Graham