

**Ministry of Education**

Deputy Minister

438 University Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 2A5

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Sous-ministre

438, avenue University, 5<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2A5

January 25, 2023

Linda Lacroix  
Registrar & CEO  
Ontario College of Teachers  
101 Bloor St West  
Toronto, ON M5S 0A1

Dear Ms. Lacroix:

I am writing to formally request your collaboration in developing alternative pathways for Indigenous language holders to be certified by the Ontario College of Teachers (College) in order to address unmet demand for language programs and to increase Indigenous student achievement and well-being.

We have heard from Indigenous partners on the urgency of advancing Indigenous language preservation and revitalization. The development of alternative pathways for Indigenous language teachers is responsive to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 10 to protect the right to Indigenous languages. The goal of building an available pool of certified Indigenous language teachers will have the added impact of recognizing the unique knowledge and experience of Indigenous language holders.

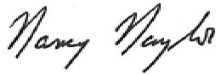
Indigenous communities are leading innovative language revitalization work, with language keepers and Elders using their specialized knowledge and experience to validate language proficiency and support language instruction.

The College, the Ministry of Education and school boards have a shared goal of increasing the number of Indigenous languages teachers. I want to acknowledge the College's work to date to increase the number of additional qualification programs that support Indigenous communities.

To move forward on this initiative, the Ministry would like to work in partnership to engage with Indigenous partners in the coming months, including the Uqausilirsijiit Circle, the Chiefs of Ontario and other language circles to develop options for alternative certification pathways for Indigenous language holders. We anticipate that potential options considered may require regulatory changes. It is important to note that the current pathways will continue to exist through currently offered faculty of education programs and that any alternative pathways will be an option to provide choice for candidates and communities.

We welcome the opportunity to explore the art of the possible. Denise Dwyer, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Indigenous Education and Well-being Division will be reaching out shortly to further discuss next steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nancy Naylor".

Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister

c: Demetra Saldaris, OCT  
Director of Standards of Practice and Accreditation

Linda Zaks-Walker, OCT  
Director of Membership Services

Denise Dwyer  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Indigenous Education and Well-Being Division

Phil Graham  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Strategic Policy and Planning Division