



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

## Memo

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**Date:** September 22, 2023  
**To:** Council of the Ontario College of Teachers  
**From:** Diana Miles  
Council Chair  
**Subject:** Chair's Report to Council – October 5, 2023

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I am very pleased to have this opportunity to meet with members of Council who are able to attend in person, together with those who are joining us online. I would also like to extend a special welcome to the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of statutory and regulatory committees who are joining us today, either in-person or virtually.

At our October 5, 2023 meeting, Council will be asked to provide final approval of a strategic plan that will guide Council decision-making and inform College operations for the next five years. The plan reflects the culmination of innovative thinking, hard work and collaboration between members of Council and the College's senior leadership team, as well as committee chairs, stakeholders and staff who openly shared their feedback over several months earlier this year.

I was personally moved by the extraordinary effort put forward by my fellow Council members during our 2-day in-person sessions back in May, along with our follow-up session in July. Your dedication to advancing the teaching profession – whether through improved certification practices, enhanced complaints and discipline processes, or commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and truth and reconciliation – has been truly inspiring.

I would like to take this opportunity to underscore two of the more important “Desired Future State” objectives, in my view:

- Be recognized by the public and our stakeholders as the regulator of the teaching profession whose processes and decisions are **independent** of the government and the profession.
- Have a **collaborative system-wide prevention model** aimed at reducing investigative and disciplinary matters through education, accountability, and early intervention.

Achieving these will take perseverance and commitment from Council, management and staff, along with a steady eye on our public interest mandate, but I am confident that we can do it. If we succeed, Ontario's students will benefit and our licensees' pride in their profession will be enhanced.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

As further detailed in the Registrar's Report to Council, a great deal of work has been done in the last quarter to address teacher supply shortages in particular, but also advancing Holocaust and antisemitism education, creating additional supports for student victims of sexual abuse, and introducing greater efficiencies in our investigation and discipline processes.

Many of these improvements took place under tight timelines over the summer months, and so I would like to thank College staff for their dedication to this important work. Your work with our Ministry of Education counterparts has been essential in expediting teacher certification in Ontario and creating novel approaches to help alleviate the labour supply-and-demand pressures facing schools across the province today.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the work of Linda Lacroix, our Registrar and CEO, in leading substantial operational and regulatory changes in response to the Minister's letter of April 17, 2023. The College's responding letter, dated September 25, 2023 and included in the October 5, 2023 meeting package, highlights the substantial changes that have already taken place and outlines the work yet to be done.

## **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

### **Training and Development**

Following adjournment of the formal meeting on October 5, 2023, Council will receive a presentation on the 2024 draft College budget as noted in the report of the Audit and Finance Subcommittee. In addition, the Selection and Nominating Subcommittee will be seeking Council input on a proposed policy on verifying Indigenous kinship.

As reflected in Council's *Training and Development Plan*, Council will also take part in an information session on *Data Collection, Governance and Security* that will be presented by an expert in this field. As Council members know, data collection, analysis and management is a central pillar of the College's new strategic plan, and so this training session could not be more timely.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

We look forward to receiving the quarterly report of the Audit and Finance Subcommittee and a fulsome report from the Selection and Nominating Subcommittee that will include recommendations for new appointments and reappointments to Council, committee and roster positions.

### **Committee Reports**

In accordance with the *Schedule of Committee Reports*, I am pleased to welcome Paige Bennett, Chair of the Accreditation Committee, and Danny Anckle, Vice-Chair of the Standards of Practice and Education Committee, to present their committee reports at the October meeting.

The statutory and regulatory committees continue to play critical roles in the College's ability to meet its regulatory mandate. Maintaining a connection with these seven committees by regularly inviting committee Chairs to attend Council meetings and report on their activities will help Council understand how the College is functioning 'on the ground' and consider legislative, regulatory and policy improvements where necessary. It also helps the committees understand the strategic decision-making role of Council and enhances transparency up and down the governance framework.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

The final meeting of the year is scheduled for December 7, 2023. We anticipate that the meeting will require a half-day and that it will be held virtually. Meeting dates for 2024 will be presented for Council's approval at the December meeting.