



Setting the Standard for Great Teaching
Fixer la norme pour un enseignement de qualité

October 4, 2019

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Lecce,

The Council of the Ontario College of Teachers met on September 26-27, 2019 and passed several important motions we would like to bring to your attention. These governance-related motions were in support of the Council-approved motion from the February 28-March 1, 2019 meeting:

That Council recommend to the Minister of Education that the College's Act be amended to provide Council with the authority to establish a selection process for Council members.

The motions approved by Council at its recent meeting included:

1. That Council approve a sortition process of professional members to populate Council.

For clarity, a sortition process involves sending an invitation to apply for a Council position to randomly selected professional members. Members are randomly selected based on criteria to be defined by Council, for example, regional diversity. Applications received would then be considered based on a series of core competencies yet to be developed by Council.

2. That Council approve a non-Council committees' selection process that involves:
 - an invitation to apply open to all members and the public through Professionally Speaking/Pour parler profession
 - a review of all applications received by the Governance and Nominating Committee (GNC) against a Council-approved competency profile
 - interviews by the GNC of short-listed candidates
 - review and recommendation by the GNC of recommended profession and public candidates
 - appointment of profession candidates by Council
 - recommendation of public candidates to the government by Council for appointment.

3. That Council approve the further development of a robust, transparent process that involves the use of competencies in selecting members of Council and/or committees based on:
 - a competency profile, and
 - overall matrix.

As we have shared with you previously, the College's Act as currently written, requires an election for those Council members from the profession. An amendment to our Act and any consequential regulatory development and/or amendments, would be required before a new process can be implemented.

Council also considered the benefits related to populating Council and committees with individuals who have undertaken governance training. As applicable to members of the public and College members, Council proposes the following regulatory amendments:

That Council request that Ontario Regulation 293/00 include as a condition of taking office, the successful completion within the first three months following the Council election, of a governance training program to be identified by the Governance Committee.

and

That Council request that Ontario Regulation 345/96 include as a condition of taking office, the successful completion within the first three months of a person's appointment to Council, of a governance training program to be identified by the Governance Committee.

Lastly, the Council looked to the practices of other professional regulatory bodies in Ontario for mechanisms that might assist with public Council member vacancies to ensure the continued ability of Council and its committees to fulfill its mandated functions. The motion approved was:

That Council request that the Minister of Education amend Ontario Regulation 345/96 by adding a deeming provision to the effect that where an appointed member term expires, he/she is deemed to be reappointed to that position until a successor takes office, if the member so agrees, up to the maximum term limit.

College staff will be reaching out to staff at the Public Appointments Secretariat in the coming weeks to update the information shared about serving on the College's Council. Council has requested that additional information be shared with prospective appointed members about expectations of Council service, for example, serving on committees and the expected time commitment.

At your convenience, we are available to discuss these motions in greater depth to explain the impact they have for the future of regulating the teaching profession in Ontario. We look forward to working with you and Ministry staff to support a renewed and contemporary governance model for the College.

Sincerely,



Nicole van Woudenberg, OCT
Chair of Council

NVW/JJ/tc-pol



Joe Jamieson MEd, OCT
Deputy Registrar