

**Chair of Council
Report to Council
October 2020**

The contents of this report highlight the activities of the Chair between February 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020. Attachment 1, the College mandate, objects, vision, mission and strategic priorities, is provided for your reference. Attachment 2 is a summary of Outreach Activities.

COVID19 Pandemic

We continue to recognize these challenging times in all facets of our lives. It is not life as usual. COVID19 has presented many 'firsts'. We navigate with the best information provided in real-time. The precautions that we take for the health and well-being of all has been made possible by everyone's understanding and contributions to take care. We hope to meet back in person for our next Council Meeting. Our governance role continues through our virtual Committee, Council and panel Meetings. We will keep you posted on CouncilNet in relation to the next phase of opening the physical building. The College remains open to the public in a virtual format and all applicants and members can access services as required. A heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you for your continued commitment to the College mandate during these unprecedented times. I like to especially thank Deputy Registrar Bélisle and staff for continuously ensuring the health and safety for all through best practices that have been implemented. Please do visit the oct.ca website for our communications to the members and public. Additional information to Council Members will continue to be posted on CouncilNet.

Strategic Priorities
Strengthen Transparency and Accountability

Special Meetings of Council

As COVID19 has truncated the usual full-day meetings Council schedules, and the immediacy of dealing with specific personnel matters, there were a series of Special Meetings of Council in recent months. Council's directions as they relate to the Special Meetings of Council (June 18, August 7, 11, and 26) are reported out via the August 26th minutes. Council's next Special Meeting is in December where a key item is to receive the budget recommendation from the Finance Committee. Committees have worked diligently and have motions for our consideration. Knowing 8th Council is drawing to a conclusion in less than 9 months, it behoves Council to ensure we use our time to focus on self-regulating the profession and protecting the public interest. Considering the tremendous work Committees do to make sound recommendations to Council in moving the organization forward, 8th Council has only a few opportunities left in its term to receive, consider and make decisions. On behalf of the Vice-Chair and myself, I thank Council Members in prioritizing our work and moving forward together so we can complete our governance business items.

Manage Risk More Strategically

Current Council Composition

Since our last regular meeting we have had two Council Members complete their Council terms by resignations. I would like to thank Susan Elliott Johns who served on both 7th and 8th Councils. She contributed much in the five years since first elected. Her service as Chair of the Standards of Practice and Education will be especially missed. I also like to thank Gerry O'Reilly who joined us early in 8th Council. Gerry contributed to the Investigations and Human Resources Committees with great integrity. I thank both Susan and Gerry for their dedication and commitment to the College mandate and we wish them the best in future endeavours.

Professional Advisory and Additional Qualification Course

You will note from the Executive Committee report that a new professional advisory on anti-racism and discrimination has been approved. There is also an Additional Qualification course to address anti-Black racism. Thank you to all individual and collective members who have sent their comments and suggestions to the College. It demonstrates self-regulation works when practitioners from the field shape the content of the courses and advisories used by its members.

Committee Work in Providing Recommendations to Council

Statutory, Regulatory, Standing and other Committees have their mandates articulated in bylaws or by directive of Council. It is important to remember that committees do the so-called legwork to determine what recommendations will be brought to Council for consideration. The governance structure is such that committees do all the heavy lifting of looking at all perspectives and making a vetted recommendation to Council. Council asks high-level questions to determine the impact of the recommendation. Council should avoid doing committee work, after all, that's why we have committees. Reminding ourselves of this governance structure, specifically the relationship between committee work and Council's decision-making authority, helps us practice good governance.

Improve Stakeholder Engagement

Meetings with the Deputy Minister

Deputy Registrar Bélisle and I continue to meet with the Deputy Minister on a monthly basis. Since the last report, we continue to advocate for implementation of not only the governance enhancements recommended by Council but numerous outstanding motions passed by this and previous Councils. We discussed the development of an AQ course focused on anti-Black racism as well as developing a professional advisory that connects with the Ministry's Equity Strategy. We highlighted the consequence of the newly passed legislation where Directors of Education

do not necessarily require registration with the Ontario College of Teachers. We explained that It would be difficult to hold the non-certified Director accountable if a school board was deemed to be in contravention of their reporting obligation, as they do not fall under the College's jurisdiction. College staff continue to meet with Ministry staff on a regular basis and as of the writing of this report, it is anticipated that the governance legislation may be introduced in the Fall session of the legislature. Estimating the timeline for moving through the legislature and receiving royal assent, is difficult so it may or may not affect the election of 9th Council. Hence, depending on the proclamation date, changes could result in shortened 8th Council or commencement of 9th Council with shortened terms. The natural transition from 8th Council to 9th Council at the end of June 2021 would seem most logical.

Ad Hoc Committee

Thank you to all Council Members who expressed an interest in participating in the ad-hoc committee on how the College engages with both its membership and the public at large. Following the usual composition structure of an ad-hoc committee with a total of five members and a minimum of two appointed members, the names were randomly selected from those who expressed interest. The members are identified below. At the first meeting, the ad-hoc committee will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair.

- Colleen Landers (a)
- Richard Fillion (a)
- Rebecca Forte (e)
- Timothy Kwiatkowski (e)
- Stéphane Vallée (e)

Election Call

The latest issue of Professionally Speaking details the Election Call for 9th Council. The Q&A section addresses Council's enhanced governance recommendations and what may transpire depending on the Government's movement on introducing the legislation changes. I have scheduled virtual meetings with the associations to provide information regarding the election. As of the writing of this report, I have had the opportunity to speak with representatives from AEFO, OSSTF, OECTA, OPC and OTF. This in an effort to communicate the governance enhancements and the timeline in which this may be completed as candidates present themselves for 9th Council. It is especially timely to invite professional members from all backgrounds and experience to consider running. I would especially encourage OCTs who self-identify as Black, who are of indigenous ancestry or who self-identify with an underrepresented group to consider running for a Council position. Diversity of voices will provide experiences and insights that enhance teacher self-regulation. Knowledge of the role of a council member and understanding that decisions are made in the public interest are essential attributes to positively contributing to self-governance. In an effort to keep interested candidates informed of the election process, my articles in Professionally Speaking and posts on twitter will provide further information to Ontario Certified Teachers.

Communication to the Membership

In early September, Deputy Registrar Bélisle and I sent a message to the membership to support their professionalism as the school year commenced. The message included links to professional advisories, video-conferencing guidelines and other resources to support Ontario Certified Teachers in their professional practice. The message was provided in both French and English to over 234, 000 Ontario Certified Teachers.

Appendix 1

Mandate ([Act](#)) and [Objects](#)

1	To regulate the profession of teaching and to govern its members.
2	To develop, establish and maintain qualifications for membership in the College.
3	To accredit professional teacher education programs offered by post-secondary educational institutions.
4	To accredit ongoing education programs for teachers offered by post-secondary educational institutions and other bodies.
5	To issue, renew, amend, suspend, cancel, revoke and reinstate certificates of qualification and registration.
6	To provide for the ongoing education of members of the College.
7	To establish and enforce professional standards and ethical standards applicable to members of the College.
8	To receive and investigate complaints against members of the College and to deal with discipline and fitness to practise issues.
9	To communicate with the public on behalf of the members of the College.
10	To perform such additional functions as are prescribed by the regulations.
11	To develop, provide and accredit educational programs leading to certificates of qualification additional to the certificate required for membership, including but not limited to certificates of qualification as a supervisory officer, and to issue, renew, amend, suspend, cancel, revoke and reinstate such additional certificates.
Duty	
In carrying out its objects, the College has a duty to serve and protect the public interest.	

[Mission](#)

Placing students' interests and well-being first by regulating and promoting excellence in teaching.

[Vision](#)

Trusted to regulate the teaching profession.

[Strategic Priorities](#)

1. Strengthen Transparency and Accountability

- develop objective and subjective key performance indicators for the College that are measurable, observable and perceivable
- make improvements to the discipline process to better reflect public expectations
- use plain language internally and externally in all communications to better connect the public and College members to the work of the College

2. Manage Risk More Strategically

- Council meetings focus more on managing risk and less on operational issues
- increase public awareness of the ongoing professional development activities of all College members
- annually conduct an environmental risk scan
- analyze College data and trends as a basis for creating additional guidance and member resources
- utilize the recommendations of the 2018 Governance Review to ensure improved governance and oversight

3. Improve Stakeholder Engagement

- clarify and better communicate the privilege and benefits of self-regulation
- enhance the effectiveness of collaboration with government, constituent organizations and other regulators

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