



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

Item	Accreditation Committee Report
Public Interest Rationale:	Object 3: To accredit professional teacher education programs offered by post-secondary educational institutions.
Strategic Alignment:	Goal 1: Accountable and agile processes to certify educators to teach in Ontario classrooms. Program accreditation and member certification are foundational to the Ontario College of Teachers' dual mandate. Accreditation is a catalyst to certification given that the majority of College members certified in any given year are graduates from Ontario accredited programs of initial teacher education. The Accreditation Committee contributes to this pipeline by rendering each accreditation decision efficiently within the 180 day timeline that is articulated in Ontario Regulation 347/02 Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs (Section 46).
Submitted By:	Catherine Foy, Chair and Robert Kyle, Vice Chair Accreditation Committee

Committee Meeting Dates

The Accreditation Committee has convened for five decision-rendering meetings since the last report to Council made in October 2023:

- October 3, 2023
- February 2, 2024 (In-person)
- April 17, 2024
- June 24, 2024
- August 13, 2024

Committee Mandate and Duties

The duties of the Accreditation Committee are outlined in Section 28. (5) of *Ontario Regulation 563/21 General* and are described in Appendix 1 of this document. Further, *Ontario Regulation 347/02, Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs*, describes the decision-rendering mandate of the committee.

This report to Council is organized within the [Objects of the College](#) and the current Strategic Plan (2024-2028). The report will draw attention to:

- Decisions rendered pertaining to the accreditation of initial teacher education programs

- Forecast of upcoming decisions and anticipated accreditation reviews

Initial Teacher Education Program Reviews and Program Change Decisions

Since the last report to Council on October 5, 2023, the Accreditation Committee has rendered eight decisions pertaining to the accreditation of 13 programs of professional education offered by seven different providers in the province.

Accreditation Decisions			Decision Date
Accreditation Renewals	4 providers 7 programs	Faculté d'éducation, Université d'Ottawa General accreditation granted to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-session consecutive program of professional education with areas of study in Technological Education (Grades 9/10 and Grades 11/12), leading to a degree or certificate [French-language program] 	October 3, 2023
		Faculty of Education, Wilfrid Laurier University General accreditation granted to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consecutive program of professional education with areas of study in the Primary/Junior and Junior/Intermediate divisions, including the Primary/Junior divisions with a focus on teaching French as a Second Language, leading to a degree 	April 17, 2024
		Faculty of Education, Western University General accreditation granted to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consecutive program of professional education with areas of study in the Primary/Junior, Junior/Intermediate and Intermediate/Senior divisions, including the Primary/Junior divisions with a focus on teaching French as a Second Language, leading to a degree 	June 24, 2024
		Schulich School of Education, Nipissing University General accreditation granted to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consecutive program of professional education with areas of study in the Primary/Junior, Junior/Intermediate and Intermediate/Senior 	August 13, 2024

Accreditation Decisions			Decision Date
		<p>divisions, including the Primary/Junior divisions with a focus on French as a Second Language, leading to a degree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concurrent program of professional education with areas of study in the Primary/Junior, Junior/Intermediate and Intermediate/Senior divisions, including the Primary/Junior divisions with a focus on teaching French as a Second Language leading to a degree • Multi-session consecutive program of professional education for persons of First Nation, Métis, or Inuit ancestry with areas of study in the Primary/Junior divisions, leading to a degree or diploma (referred to as the <i>Indigenous Teacher Education Program (ITEP)</i>) • Multi-session consecutive program of professional education with an area of study in teaching Native Languages, leading to a degree or diploma (referred to as <i>Teacher of Indigenous Language as a Second Language Program (TILSL)</i>) 	
Substantial Change in Program or Addition to Program	3 providers 4 programs	<p>Roster work pertaining to:</p> <p>Université de l'Ontario français (April 2024)</p> <p>No reason to believe that there were substantial changes due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ reorganization in practicum placements ○ sequence adjustment of courses in the part-time cohort to align with the full-time cohort <p>Faculté d'éducation, Université d'Ottawa (June 2024)</p> <p>No reason to believe that there were substantial changes in the mode of delivery of courses for the consecutive program offered at the Toronto campus only.</p> <p>Department of Education, Tyndale University (August 2024)</p>	N/A

Accreditation Decisions			Decision Date
		No reason to believe that there were substantial changes to the consecutive program due to a switch of two courses between the summer and fall semesters.	
Removal of Conditions	1 program	Université de l'Ontario français <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conditions removed from Requirement 8 and 15; no conditions remain 	April 17, 2024

Revocation	N/A	N/A	N/A
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Accreditation Period Extensions	2 providers 5 programs	University of Windsor Extension Request #1: Extended expiry from May 31, 2024 to September 30, 2024 for its consecutive, concurrent and multi-session consecutive programs.	February 6, 2024
		Extension Request #2: Extended expiry from September 30, 2024 to May 31, 2025 for its consecutive, concurrent and multi-session consecutive programs.	June 24, 2024
		Redeemer University Extended expiry from April 26, 2025 to April 26, 2026 for its consecutive and concurrent programs.	August 13, 2024

Forecast of Anticipated Reviews and Upcoming Decisions

There are accreditation decisions for seven different providers on the horizon:

General Accreditation Reviews:

- Queen's University Winter 2025
- Université de l'Ontario français Winter 2025
- Tyndale University Spring 2025
- Laurentian University Summer 2025
- Windsor University Fall 2025

- York University Fall 2025

Program Changes:

- Lakehead University Fall 2024

Committee Professional Learning and Development

Specialized knowledge and skills are required of Accreditation Committee and Roster members to render informed decisions. Staff provides ongoing training that is highly valued in this development. The training has been impactful and has contributed significantly to the competency of the Accreditation Committee and Roster members. Particular focus has been brought to:

- Determination of sufficient, salient and probative evidence to inform decision-making
- Committee capacity to ask good questions
- Connections between initial teacher education research and accreditation requirements
- Capacity-building within committee to identify essential features from panel reports to be included in decisions

In addition to the onboarding sessions for new committee and roster members, the 8-member Accreditation Committee met onsite at the College offices for a face-to-face meeting on February 2, 2024. Staff facilitated a number of professional learning activities on a variety of topics to inform the committee's work. Interactive sessions included extracting information from salient evidence sources, understanding Panel Reports, understanding Multi-session Transitional Certificates of Qualification and Registration and the new Transitional Certificate of Qualification and Registration, and engaging with teacher education research in connection with the work of accreditation. Three guest speakers shared their expertise on topics related to Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Re-imagining Teacher Education as a Continuum. Key to the success of the day was the relevance of the sessions to the committee's decision-rendering responsibilities and a recognition of current issues pertaining to initial teacher education.

This opportunity to come together has promoted synergy for the Accreditation Committee. There are better connections between committee members, between committee and staff as well as connections to the work. There is enhanced respect for the knowledge, skills and perspectives that each committee member brings, whether they are a public member or a licensee. What has evolved is a committee initiative to lead the decision deliberation discussion about salient evidence sources that satisfy particular requirements. This member-led discussion was first modelled by the Chair and Vice-Chair at the June committee meeting. Other committee members have volunteered to continue this practice.

Another shared responsibility is seen in committee member willingness to lead the land acknowledgement at the outset of the meeting from their own geographic location.

Items in Alignment with the Strategic Plan Enablers

A regulatory model that strives to be free from barriers to truth and reconciliation, and equity, diversity, inclusion and access

Launch of Accreditation Resource Guide

The Accreditation Resource Guide is a companion to requirements set out in Regulation 347/02 *Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs*. Its purpose is to clarify the intent, through additional information and examples, of the core content that should be included in Ontario teacher education programs. The Guide was revised in 2023.

Faculties access the [Accreditation Resource Guide \(2023\)](#) as part of their accreditation renewal process. In the three reviews following the publication of the refreshed content of the Guide, the committee has noted greater evidence of the following elements in the programs' conceptual framework, design and course content:

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Access
- Indigenous Perspectives, Cultures, Histories and Ways of Knowing
- Environmental Learning, Ecojustice and Climate Action
- Integration of Technology as a Teaching and Learning Tool

Responsive client service for all stakeholders

The Accreditation Committee acknowledges that the College has a number of interested and affected educational partners, including the faculties of education that offer accredited programs of initial teacher education. Committee members exercise their responsiveness to program providers in a number of ways, including:

- Rendering accreditation decisions within reasonable timelines in accordance with the regulation
- Articulating conditions on accreditation requirements, if any, in a way that faculties understand what evidence is required in order to satisfy the requirement
- Exercising a reasonable expectation for the accreditation period for a program of professional education in accordance with the regulation

With respect to this third point, in the period since the last report to Council, the Accreditation Committee has received requests from two faculties to consider an extension to the accreditation period for their programs. Rationale cited for the extension requests references uncertainty with respect to anticipated changes to the duration and content of teacher education programs from the provincial government. An accreditation renewal is a significant time and resource investment for faculties and they want to ensure that they will be bringing forward the program that will actually be offered for accreditation. When deliberating on these matters, committee members have the opportunity to consider historic decisions and to consult policy staff for input regarding risks and other considerations.

Future Meeting Dates as of September 1, 2024

- August 13, 2024
- November 2024 (tentative)
- February 2025 (tentative)
- April 2025 (tentative)

Committee Members

Current

Catherine Foy (Chair from January 2024)
Robert Kyle (Vice-Chair)
Brenda Brown
Mitch Champagne, OCT (from January 2024)
Sam Eskenasi
Yasir Khalid (from January 2024)
Cathy McCann-Kyte, OCT (from June 2024)
Jacques Pavesi, OCT

End of Term

Paige Bennett, OCT (Chair) (until December 2023)
Leisa Desmoulins (until December 2023)

Resignation

Christian Lortie, OCT (until April 2024)

Roster Members

Members (OCTs)

Paige Bennett (from January 2024)
Todd Bright (from January 2024)
Wendy Crocker
Marylin Dawson
Dany Dias (from January 2024)

Non-Members

Diane Freeman
Barbara Gough
Larysa Grant
Douglas Reynolds
David Roy

Kamal Fodil
Beverley Freedman (until December 2024)
John Graham (until December 2024)
Myke Healy
Audrey Hensen
Allison Holmes
Jennifer Leclerc (until December 2024)
Douglas McDougall
Cathy McCann-Kyte (until May 2024)
Eleanor Newman
Thelma Sambrook (from January 2024)
Jane Silva
Simon Sutherland (from January 2024)
Benoit Trudel
Sébastien Villeneuve

Suzanne Ruttan
Lauren Walker

Appendix 1: Duties and Mandate of the Accreditation Committee

The duties of the Accreditation Committee are limited to,

- (a) determining whether programs of professional education qualify for accreditation under the accreditation regulation;
- (b) determining if accredited programs of professional education qualify for a renewal of accreditation under the accreditation regulation;
- (c) granting accreditation, with or without conditions, to programs of professional education that qualify for accreditation under the accreditation regulation;
- (d) determining, at the direction of the Registrar and in the circumstances permitted by the accreditation regulation, if accredited programs of professional education and accredited programs of additional qualification continue to qualify for accreditation; and
- (e) carrying out any duties assigned to it under Part IV of the accreditation regulation.

Institutions must apply for accreditation before offering a new or substantially changed program of professional education in Ontario.

If a program is accredited, it will be reviewed within the seven-year cycle.

If a program is accredited with conditions, the Accreditation Committee receives and reviews an annual report from the institution on its progress satisfying the accreditation conditions. The committee may issue a decision to modify or remove the conditions.

If a program is denied accreditation, the institution may appeal within 60 days of receiving a copy of the decision. The appeal must set out the grounds and the facts on which it relies and be accompanied by the fee prescribed by the College bylaw.

All Accreditation Committee decisions are posted on the Ontario College of Teachers website for public access and review.