

Communiqué
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OTF Says No to Professional Designation

You have been hearing from the College of Teachers about a possible professional designation for teachers. OTF has spent considerable time researching this proposal and has concluded that a professional designation is not in the best interests of teachers.

We are all proud of the vocation we have chosen. Teachers do not need a few letters added to their names to feel that they are professionals who teach with pride.

Since this idea was first floated over a year ago, we have communicated our concerns to the Registrar and Chair of the Governing Council of the Ontario College of Teachers. We have also shared our discussion paper outlining our concerns with the Minister of Education.

The Federation's main concerns are:

1. the additional cost to the College and, therefore, to teachers to implement and enforce a professional designation;
2. the lack of demand by teachers for a professional designation; and
3. almost all professions that have professional designations have entrance examinations to achieve professional designation, creating the potential for an entrance to profession exam for teachers with the implementation of this proposal. While the Federation has received assurances that this is not the current expectation, nothing can bind future College Governing Councils from initiating an exam.

Notwithstanding the position of OTF and the Affiliates, and even the lack of support from the Minister of Education, the College has decided to proceed with this proposal. It will be prominently featured in the first edition for the school year of the magazine from the College of Teachers. The designation will be automatically added to your certificate and used in all correspondence.

We urge you not to be enticed by this idea. Inform yourself about the full implications of the proposed designation. OTF's full position paper is available on our website. Let the College know that you do not want to have the designation added to your certificate or on your correspondence.