



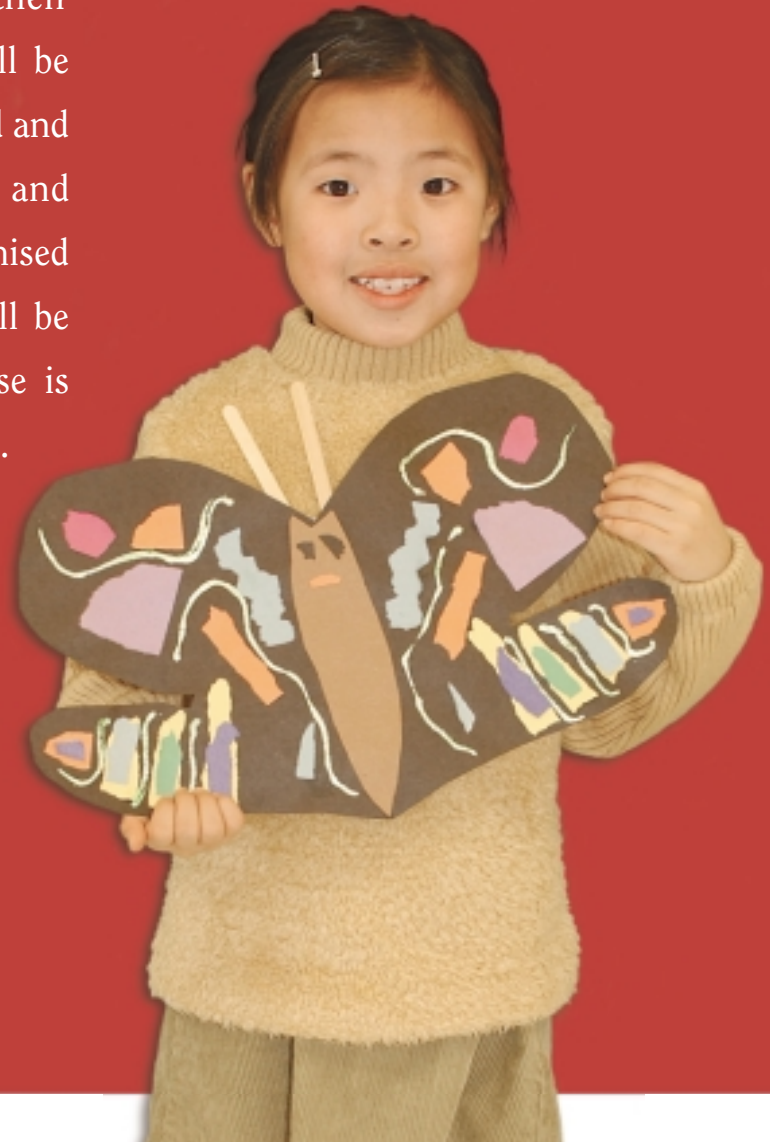
# Valuing Teaching and Quality Education



Ontario College of Teachers

“We have promised members of the public that when they send their children to our schools, they will be taught and supervised by qualified and certified teachers, principals and supervisory officers. We have promised that each of these individuals will be competent. And our final promise is perhaps the most important of all. We have said send us your children and we promise that they will be safe in our charge.”

J.W. (Joe) Atkinson, Registrar and CEO



### *Shaping the future together*

Teachers in Ontario work together to set requirements for entry into the profession, to develop and maintain standards for their teaching practice and to adhere to a code of conduct. They do this through their professional college.

The Ontario College of Teachers is the largest professional self-regulatory body in Canada with 185,000 members. It was founded in 1996 to license and regulate teaching in the public interest.

The College ensures the province's teachers are qualified and competent, and that students are safe in their care. The College plays an important role in advancing the teaching profession and helping teachers improve student learning in Ontario.

The College is responsible for ensuring new members are qualified to teach in Ontario and for accrediting teacher education programs at Ontario universities. The College promotes ongoing professional learning and ensures its quality and accessibility all across the province in both English and French. The College is also responsible for investigating complaints related to professional misconduct, incompetence or incapacity.

The College's standards of practice and ethical standards describe all that is best about the teaching profession. They are what teachers strive for every day. The standards of practice – captured in five key statements – provide a vision of what it means to be a teacher, while the ethical standards describe the ethical responsibilities at the heart of the profession. The standards were developed through extensive research and consultation with practising teachers and the public.

Teachers in publicly funded schools in Ontario must be members in good standing with the College. Many private schools also require their teachers to be College members.

The College's membership includes elementary and secondary teachers, principals and vice-principals, superintendents, directors of education and other educators like university faculty members in teacher education programs. The College is funded by its members.



### *Self-regulatory profession*

The College Council is the governing body of the Ontario College of Teachers.

The 31-member Council and its 14 committees develop and approve College policies. College members elect 17 of the 31 members. Elected Council members serve three-year terms and represent the public, Catholic, elementary and secondary school systems in all regions of the province. Principals/vice-principals, supervisory officers, private schools and faculties of education are also represented by elected members.

The remaining 14 members of Council are public representatives appointed by the provincial government. Parent activists, school trustees, business people and members of the community at large bring their experience and expertise to the Council as appointed members.

The Council meets at least four times a year. The meetings are open to the public.

The College is accessible to members and the public at its downtown Toronto location. The organization is managed by the Registrar, who serves as Chief Executive Officer of the College.

### *What it means to be a teacher*

The ethical standards and the standards of practice are the foundation documents of the teaching profession. The five standards of practice statements encompass:

- Commitment to students and student learning
- Professional knowledge
- Teaching practice
- Leadership and community
- Ongoing professional learning.

The standards of practice are used to accredit both the teacher education programs at Ontario's faculties of education and the courses teachers take to gain additional qualifications.



### *Protecting students and teachers*

The College is responsible for professional discipline. The teaching profession recognizes that teachers are in a position of trust and authority. Members of the profession take this responsibility very seriously. That is why the College has processes in place to address complaints.



The College receives and investigates complaints against its members relating to professional misconduct, incompetence and incapacity. Complaints of misconduct or incompetence may be referred to public hearings. Members who are guilty of misconduct or incompetence face a range of penalties, including the loss of their licence to teach in Ontario.

### *Professional learning*

The College recognizes that student learning is directly linked to teacher learning.

Legislation passed in June 2001 requires College members to complete 14 Professional Learning Program courses or credits every five years in order to maintain their licence to teach.

The 14 courses of the Professional Learning Program are comprised of seven core courses in specific knowledge or practice areas, and seven elective courses in areas of a member's own choice.

The core courses focus on: curriculum, student assessment, special education, teaching strategies, classroom management and leadership, use of technology, and communicating with parents and


students. The elective courses may be taken to suit individual professional needs and interests.

### *Tap into College resources*

Teachers and the public are invited to surf the College web site ([www.oct.on.ca](http://www.oct.on.ca)) for the latest College news or just to learn more about how Canada's largest self-regulatory body works. The web site is updated daily. Click onto the public register, listing the teaching qualifications of teachers in Ontario, or check out the newest approved Professional Learning Program courses.

College members receive a quarterly magazine, *Professionally Speaking*, that delves into a wide variety of educational topics. Annual subscriptions for non-members are available for \$10 in Canada; \$20 foreign. To subscribe, contact the College at 416-961-8800 or toll-free in Ontario at 1-888-534-2222. The College's e-mail is: [info@oct.on.ca](mailto:info@oct.on.ca).

The College library serves the teaching profession with an extensive array of books, periodicals and reports. Its catalogue is accessible online through the College web site.

<http://www.oct.on.ca/> 





Ontario College of Teachers

Visit the College on the Internet  
and here's some of what you'll find:

Public Register  
Member Services  
Certificates and Qualifications  
Professional Learning Program  
*Professionally Speaking*  
Standards of Practice  
Accreditation  
Online Library Catalogue  
Council Members  
News Releases

[www.oct.on.ca](http://www.oct.on.ca)

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