



# From the President

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## Results of Ontario Provincial Election

As you know, the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party won a majority on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Many of the 'more seasoned' teachers remember teaching during the 8 years from 1995-2003 when the PCs last formed a majority government. Many changes were made to the Education system during those years. Some of those changes remain concerns to this day such as EQAO testing, the Funding Formula, and the curriculum.

As the new Ontario government makes decisions regarding Education, ETFO will be watching closely, and will provide appropriate responses. Our Federation's goals for public education are outlined in *Building Better Schools*:

- A FUNDING FORMULA THAT WORKS FOR KIDS
- SMALLER CLASSES FOR EVERYONE
- SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
- TESTING ROOTED IN LEARNING
- ENRICHING STUDENT LEARNING
- INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS
- A STRONGER VOICE FOR EDUCATORS AND THEIR UNION
- A SINGLE SECULAR SCHOOL SYSTEM

The detailed plan can be viewed at:

[https://www.buildingbetterschools.ca/the\\_plan](https://www.buildingbetterschools.ca/the_plan)

## Brantford Pride



The GEETF set up a table at Brantford Pride on June 18<sup>th</sup> to inform the public about ETFO's social justice work and promotion of equity and inclusion in our schools. Pictured above left to right are Cory Judson, Nancy D'Aurora, Shawn Martin, Geri Power and George Overend.

## ETFO Assessment Website

The ETFO assessment website has been given a total refresh and update. A variety of practical new tools have been added. The website helps members enhance their understanding of assessment and to learn new strategies proven by their peers in the classroom. <http://etfoassessment.ca/>



## **GEETF Annual Awards & Retirement Celebration Banquet**



On June 21<sup>st</sup> the GEETF had the pleasure of hosting a Celebration Banquet to honour our colleagues who are retiring and to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of teachers who have gone above and beyond this year. We wish all of our retirees the best in the next chapter of life. You'll be missed and are always welcome to visit.

### **Local Education News – 120 Years Ago**

I enjoy history, so when I came across the minutes of the Brantford City Teachers' Association in the office, I took some time to read their earliest records written long before Federations existed, and decades before labour rights were enacted. I thought you'd enjoy the observations made regarding standardized testing. 120 years on and we're still debating this issue!

- ❖ In November of 1899 the Executive determined that this testing caused "a great deal of unnecessary work which could be more profitably spent in teaching. It was a nervous strain on young children, and unfitted them for work." One member expressed, "we would get better results by having frequent oral examinations. It would excite emulation among the pupils."

- ❖ The discussion continued in February of 1900. The minutes state, "we spend too much time preparing for examinations. We do not have enough time to get the pupils interested in the current events of the day."

Isn't it interesting that the same arguments regarding standardized testing took place in our local over a century ago?

### **Have a Safe, Relaxing and Wonderful Summer Vacation**

The GEETF office will close for summer vacation on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The office will re-open with part-time hours during the last week of August. You may leave a message but it won't be returned until the last week in August. If you encounter any issues that can't wait until the end of August, Shawn will be checking his email during the break and will assist you if needed. Board personnel take vacation time as well, so it may not be possible to deal with issues during the vacation. If you encounter any emergencies you may contact Professional Relations Services (PRS) at ETFO. The number is 1 888 838-3836. The ETFO office will remain open all summer. They close each day at 4 p.m.

On behalf of your released officers and Jeannette (our Executive Assistant), we wish you a safe and enjoyable summer vacation.

### **Upcoming Events**

**AUGUST 13-16** ETFO Annual Meeting

