

Stand Up for Canada: Action on U.S. Tariffs



Advocating for public education in the face of tariffs

The effects of world events are felt deeply by educators, the students in our classrooms and their families. Educators know that education is key to making sure Ontario's young people can thrive.

This economic crisis must not be used to justify more cuts to public education and other public services people rely on. While tariffs put pressure on all of us, it is important to remember that governments have a responsibility to support workers, students, families and communities through these difficult times and they have the fiscal ability to do so.

Staying informed about tariffs is an important part of advocating for public education. Information on tariffs is available from the federal government in [Canada's response to U.S. tariffs on Canadian goods](#), and from CBC News in this primer: [Everything you want to know about the Canada-U.S. tariffs](#).

You can advocate for protecting public education funding and for increased social spending by all levels of government despite economic challenges. Contact your local city councillor, school board trustee, MPP and/or MP to let them know you expect governments to be there to support people.

Member Updates

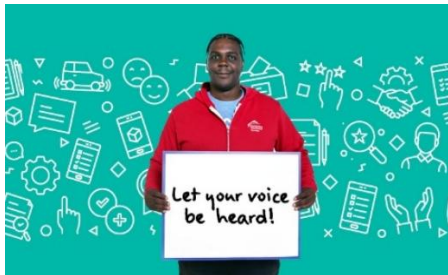


Ontario budget shortchanges public education

ETFO continues to sound the alarm on the Ford government's chronic underfunding of public education. The latest provincial budget includes no new funding, forcing school boards to cut essential student services.

It ignores inflation, worsens class size issues, neglects students with disabilities, and fails to address violence in schools or the staffing crisis. This isn't just inaction—it's negligence.

[Read the full release.](#)



Central bargaining survey – Getting ready for 2026

ETFO collective agreements expire on August 31, 2026, and ETFO is already preparing for the next round of bargaining. To find out what's important to members, ETFO has launched a province-wide bargaining survey. Links to complete the survey were sent to members from Strategic Communications (Stratcom) on May 5.

Members who did not receive a link should email cbssurvey@etfo.org. The survey closes on May 30. We look forward to hearing from you – we are stronger together!



New webcast to support students with autism spectrum disorder

ETFO has just released a new webcast to accompany *[Special](#)*

[Education Needs in the Regular Classroom: Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder](#).

The webcast builds on information from the resource and provides guidance to teachers about the progression of supports leading to the creation of alternative expectations for a student's Individual Education Plan.

[Watch the webcast](#) on YouTube or on members.etfo.ca.



Medical accommodations for 2025-26

Dealing with a medical absence or accommodation at work can be stressful. School boards typically request a medical update around the middle of the summer to ensure that things are on track for the start of the coming school year.

If you have questions or concerns about what your board is requesting, reach out to your local before the summer, and contact PRS during the summer if issues arise.

For more information check out the PRS Matters bulletin [Requests For Medical Information – Advice for Members](#).



Listen to the podcast on education and AI

AI is everywhere these days from our banking apps to our classrooms. Tune in to [the latest episode of the ETFO podcast *Elementary*](#) to learn more about the benefits and risks of this new technology from Dr. Phil McRae, associate coordinator of government research at the Alberta Teachers' Association, who studies and speaks on the use of AI in education.

Follow [Elementary](#) on your podcast app to listen to past episodes and be notified when new ones are added.

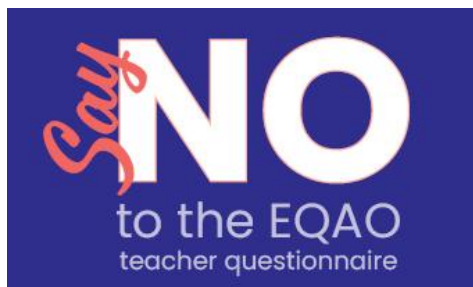


Promises Unfulfilled – Special Education History

ETFO's new position paper, [Promises Unfulfilled: Addressing the Special Education Crisis in Ontario](#), is a call to action that includes 27 recommendations for how to help fix a special education system that is failing Ontario's children with disabilities.

Learn about the history of special education in [this chapter](#) contributed by Jason Ellis, associate professor in the Department of Education Studies at the University of British Columbia and author of *A Class by Themselves? The Origins of Special Education in Toronto and Beyond*.

Find the full report and related materials on our [website](#) and take action at [buildingbetterschools.ca](#).



Say NO to the EQAO Teacher Questionnaire

ETFO continues to [advise members](#) not to participate in the voluntary Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) teacher questionnaire.

EQAO has indicated it is leveraging information from the teacher questionnaire to investigate decreasing scores. This risks transferring accountability to teachers and away from the government for its systemic underfunding of public education.

ETFO [member advisories](#) can be found on the ETFO member website. Register with your ETFO ID at members.etfo.ca.



Registration is now open for Summer Academy 2025, and courses are filling up quickly!

Summer Academy includes in-person courses at various locations across Ontario, as well as virtual sessions. Registration is \$75 for in-person courses and \$30 for virtual.

All courses are facilitated by dynamic presenters and are structured to meet the personal and professional needs of members.

Visit events.etfo.org for registration and additional information (login required).

For general inquiries, please email sacademy@etfo.org.

Important reminder for all ETFO members:

Be sure to register at members.etfo.ca for access to opportunities, information, classroom resources, and more.



Professional Judgement Matters series

Do you want to know more about how you can use your professional judgement on grades 1 to 8 report cards or Kindergarten Communication of Learning reports?

Be sure to check out the following resources from our [Professional Judgement Matters](#) series:

[ETFO Professional Judgment Guidelines for the Completion of the Elementary Provincial Report Card Grades 1 to 8](#)

[ETFO Professional Judgement Guidelines for Completion of the Kindergarten Communication of Learning Report](#)

**CALL FOR SPECIAL
EDUCATION WORKSHOP
WRITERS/FACILITATORS**



Wanted: Experts in special education

ETFO is seeking members to develop and facilitate the 2025-26 **Special Needs in the Regular Classroom** workshops. Two workshops will be offered, with each focusing on one of the following exceptionalities:

- deaf and hard of hearing
- students with intellectual needs (mild intellectual disability and developmental disability)

Active members with extensive relevant knowledge and strong writing and presentation skills are encouraged to [submit an application](#) by **Friday, June 6, 2025**.

For more information, [view the flyer](#).

Get the news from the broader labour community. Subscribe to the e-newsletters that labour and education organizations produce to stay in touch with workers like you.

[CONNECT NOW!](#)



Call for equity workshop facilitators

ETFO is seeking facilitators for a new **equity workshop about combating antisemitism in Ontario schools**, which will be offered to members through locals.

Members with excellent presenting and facilitation skills, as well as deep knowledge of combating antisemitism in learning environments, are encouraged to apply.

For more information, visit members.etfo.ca.



ETFO standing committees

ETFO is currently accepting applications for vacancies on the following standing committees for the 2025-2027 term:

- Teacher Education/Faculty Liaison (one vacancy for Wilfrid Laurier)

[Application form for immediate vacancy - TEFLC \(Wilfrid Laurier\)](#)

Applications will be accepted until Friday, June 6, 2025.



Sexual Abuse Prevention Program (SAPP)

On October 1, 2024, the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) approved regulatory amendments providing the OCT with the authority to administratively suspend the certificates of members who do not complete the SAPP by July 1, 2025.

To date, the OCT reports that 99 per cent of its members are in compliance. For those who have not completed the SAPP, the OCT will be sending out 60-day notices via email and Canada Post advising that their licence to teach will be administratively suspended effective July 2, 2025, unless they complete the program.

Visit the [OCT website](#) for more information.

Upcoming Events



First Steps Program 2025

August 11-14, 2025

ETFO is looking for 10 observers from designated groups to attend the 2025 Annual Meeting as part of our [First Steps program](#).

Selected participants will learn about Robert's Rules of Order, get to know Annual Meeting operating procedures, and observe what it is like to be part of the democratic process of the Federation.

[View the flyer.](#)

Registration closes June 5 at 4:00 p.m.



Canadian Labour Congress Summer School

July 13-18, 2025 (Open to [women members only](#))

July 20-25, 2025 (Open to [all members](#))

The CLC Summer School is a week-long learning and networking opportunity for ETFO members to attend a labour course with members from other unions across the province. This exciting week includes guest speakers, panellists, activities, and building connections within the broader labour movement.

[View the flyer](#)

Registration closes May 28 at 5:00 p.m.

Member Services

Ready, set, win!

Enter to win our monthly prize of **\$500 cash** and the grand prize of **\$10,000 cash!**

[Enter now](#)

Contest closes December 31, 2025. Read full contest rules [here](#).



Educator Blogs



- [Fostering equity and social justice in the classroom: A necessity](#) by Preeti Deokharan
- [Seeds of spring](#) by Brenda MacNaughton
- [Striving to become an anti-racist educator part I: A call to action](#) by Devon Clarke

Follow us online!



The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
represents 83,000 teachers and education workers.

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