



Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
Fédération des enseignantes et des enseignants de l'élémentaire de l'Ontario
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December 5, 2017

Angela de Palma
Chair
Ontario College of Teachers
101 Bloor Street West
Toronto, ON M5S 0A1

Dear Angela de Palma:

I am writing to advise that the Executive of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario passed a unanimous motion today in opposition to the proposed 20 per cent increase to the Ontario College of Teachers membership fee. The ETFO motion also calls on members of the OCT Governing Council to vote against the fee increase when it is presented at the Council's December 7-8, 2017 meeting.

The College implemented a nine per cent fee increase in 2014, an increase that was well above the inflation rate and represented a flagrant insensitivity to members who were experiencing salary freezes or, in the case of many occasional teachers, precarious work. The proposed fee increase coming before the Council this week is unprecedented, unwarranted and unconscionable.

The College is imposing an unacceptable fee increase on its members to pay for mortgage on a property that is located in one of the most expensive real estate markets in the country. College expenditures are also expanding due to a regrettable and misplaced expansion of activities that take the College beyond its mandate. College members should not be footing the bill for expensive public relations campaigns, professional learning or the sponsorship of displays at events disconnected from the College's role of governing the profession.

The successive fee increases are driven by a regulatory body that is engaged in empire-building at the expense of its members. Members have virtually no say in the fee increase; the process is lacking in accountability and transparency.

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Angela de Palma

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The ETFO Executive urges Council members to vote against the proposed 20 per cent fee increase and to look to decreasing expenses through withdrawing from expensive undertakings that take the College beyond its mandate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Hammond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sam Hammond
President

SH:VM:VO

Copy: Members of the Ontario College of Teachers Governing Council
The Honourable Mitzie Hunter