



ONTARIO PUBLIC  
SCHOOL BOARDS'  
ASSOCIATION  
Leading Education's Advocates

AFOCSC  
ASSOCIATION FRANCO-ONTARIENNE  
DES CONSEILS SCOLAIRES CATHOLIQUES



ACÉPO  
Association des conseils  
scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario

December 9, 2021

Chris Cowley  
President  
Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF/FEO)  
Suite 100  
10 Alcorn Avenue  
Toronto, ON M4V 3A9

**Re: Amendments to the 50-day limit for retired educators**

Dear Chris:

We are writing today on behalf of all trustee and school board associations in Ontario—the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA), the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA), l'Association franco-Ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC) and l'Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO), to request that the Ontario Teachers' Federation temporarily amend the 50-day limit for retired educators for the 2021/2022 school year.

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, school boards continue to experience significant difficulty in hiring occasional teachers and supply principals/vice-principals, and therefore our boards are once again seeking to amend the 50-day limit. Last year's temporary increase to 95 days proved to be a helpful tool in addressing this challenge, and we very much appreciated your cooperation during these challenging times.

Public health advice continues to require students to remain within small cohorts throughout the school day. A cohorting strategy is most effective when boards are able to limit the number of teachers in contact with each cohort. In the event of occasional teachers not being available at a particular school, classes cannot be combined for the day as they would have been pre-pandemic. With an ongoing shortage of occasional teachers, we face the potential of widespread instances of students being sent home if no teacher is available to cover their class. As a result, boards are under tremendous pressure to fill daily absences as well as short and long-term occasional contract assignments that are currently having significant impacts on their operations. Boards, therefore, need to be able to expand the pool of occasional teachers again this school year.

As the Presidents of the trustee and school board associations representing all publicly funded schools in our province, we respectfully request that the removal of the 50-day limit for the 2021/2022 school year be given urgent consideration and approved by the OTF Board of Directors.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Daly  
President  
(OCSTA)

Sincerely,



Cathy Abraham  
President  
(OPSBA)

Sincerely,



Johanne Lacombe  
Présidente  
(AFOCSC)

Sincerely,



Denis M. Chartrand  
President  
(ACÉPO)

CC: Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education  
Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister of Education