

April 23, 2020

For Immediate Release

The OTCC pursues its legal case against the Ministry of Education and the EQAO in the Superior Court of Ontario in response to the Minister of Education's decision to delay the Math Proficiency Test.

In response to an injunction notice by the Ontario Teacher Candidates' Council (OTCC) received by the Province on Friday, April 17, 2020, the Minister of Education has issued an amendment to Ontario Regulation 271/19 (Proficiency in Mathematics). The amendment was made under the Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996 (OCTA) to “authorize the Registrar of the OCT to certify, with condition, individuals who complete their application on or after March 31, 2020. This condition stipulates that the applicant must successfully complete the MPT by August 31, 2021.”

The letter released by the Deputy Minister of Education Nancy Naylor states that for “missed practicum days, an amendment has been made to Ontario Regulation 176/10 (Teachers' Qualifications) made under the OCTA. This amendment will allow teacher candidates in their final semester of an Ontario initial teacher education program, despite not having completed the practicum component, to be eligible for certification by the College if they have successfully completed all other graduation components of the program, including a portion of the practicum.” While the OTCC is thankful for this amendment—in light of a global pandemic—it is essential to note that there is no condition imposed on this amendment.

The decision concretely states that the results of the Math Proficiency Test (MPT) are more important than time spent in the classroom teaching students in the presence of a certified teacher. While the OTCC recognizes the impossible situation teacher candidates are facing due to COVID-19, Minister Lecce's forgiveness of practicum hours and the Ministry's determined continuation of the MPT indicates a disregard for teacher education, favouring success on a math test over the development of professional competencies. As such, the OTCC will be proceeding with its legal action, beginning with a meeting with the court on Friday, April 24, 2020.

Sincerely,

Executive Committee,
Ontario Teacher Candidates' Council

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