

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister

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Ministère de l'Éducation

Sous-ministre

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May 25, 2022

Diana Miles

Chair

Ontario College of Teachers

101 Bloor Street West, 8th Floor

Toronto, ON M5S 2Z7

Dear Ms. Miles:

I am writing to ask for your collaboration and commitment to the development of a strategy aimed at addressing application processing delays at the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT).

The Ministry of Education (ministry) recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has been an extraordinary time for the OCT, teacher candidates, faculties of education and school boards. Over the past year, in collaboration with the OCT, we have introduced a number of measures – including the temporary certificate – to maintain the supply of Occasional Teachers and ensure that schools were able to meet their staffing needs. While these measures have been effective and welcomed by the sector, we are continuing to hear concerns related to long processing times for applications and how that is impacting a stable supply of certified teachers in Ontario.

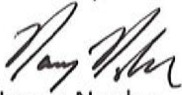
With the OCT's recently modernized governance structure, the College can more effectively regulate the teaching profession in the best interests of students. The public's trust in the College is maintained if and when applications are processed in a timely manner. Related to this issue are the proposed amendments to the Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act. I understand that the OCT has concerns with the introduction of time limits for making and communicating decisions in respect to domestic labour mobility applicants and internationally trained individuals. While the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development is planning a period of transition for regulators who require additional time to become compliant, I believe this presents an opportunity to improve the application processing system and deliver decisions in a timely manner for all applicants, regardless of origin.

The ministry would like to support the OCT in their efforts to reduce application processing timelines. With this in mind, it would be helpful to receive data on the volume of applications for certification received by the College. This data will not only help the ministry better

understand teacher supply patterns but will also help us to work with the OCT in those periods when there is a particularly high volume of applications. The ministry has extensive expertise in Lean methodology, which could be leveraged to support the introduction of improvements to the application review process. We would be happy to discuss what supports/advice would help the OCT to accelerate application processing timelines.

I look forward to hearing from you on the OCT's strategy for accelerating application processing timelines in the near-term and to the regular receipt of relevant data. Phil Graham, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Strategic Policy and Planning Division, will be in touch with you to discuss potential elements of the suggested strategy and how the ministry can support the OCT in the streamlining of application processing.

Sincerely,



Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

c: Phil Graham, A/ Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Education