

World Teachers' Day 2021 – Video Message from OSSTF/FEESO president, Karen Littlewood

Hello, I am Karen Littlewood, President of the Ontario Secondary Teachers' Federation.

World Teachers' Day has been held annually since 1994 and commemorates the adoption of the 1966 International Labour Organization/UNESCO recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.

The recommendation set benchmarks regarding the rights and responsibilities of teachers, standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employments, and teaching and learning conditions.

The last 18 months have arguably been some of the most challenging, not only for teachers in Ontario but also around the world. I personally want to acknowledge and thank teachers here at home and globally for their dedication, passion, and innovative efforts to support student success. Together we are the champions of our students and of the right to accessible, well-funded, public education.

Teachers are instrumental in shaping our communities and are the framework of ethics, truth and justice in our world. They instill a sense of belonging, equality, inclusion, and compassion in their students and classrooms. As members of the greater education team, we work to protect the cause of education and to ensure this basic human right is available to all students.

On behalf of the entire Provincial Executive of OSSTF/FEESO we want to thank all teachers for your commitment and enthusiasm. Today, on World Teachers' Day we take the time to formally celebrate you and your work, but every day we recognize the power of education in shaping our futures.

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