

QECO Certification Rating Statement Applications and Re-Evaluations

To: Presidents and All Members

From: Joel Duff, Associate General Secretary – Professional Services

For Action

All teacher members of OSSTF/FEESO should have a Qualifications Evaluation Council of Ontario's (QECO) Statement in their possession. This document ensures you receive grid pay for teaching assignments—both Permanent and Long-Term Occasional positions. Not having a QECO rating statement that accurately reflects your current academic or trade background can result in you needlessly remaining in the incorrect category (or OSSTF/FEESO Group) for your entire career and missing out on thousands of dollars in lost salary. Common reasons for this to occur include:

- Never having your academic or trade background evaluated by QECO and remaining in Category 1 (or OSSTF/FEESO Group 1)
- Not being re-evaluated by QECO after achieving new credentials that can advance your Category or Group and increase your salary
- Not submitting your new QECO rating statement to your employer

The attainable goal of all teacher members should be to get to a Category A4 placement as quickly, efficiently, and as inexpensively as possible. QECO can advise you on how to do this.

QECO's website and link to registration and online application forms can be found [here](#). The OSSTF/FEESO Certification website directs members to QECO's contact information for questions, information and online application forms. If you have questions about QECO's application process, or your rating status, please visit the QECO [website](#) or email info@qeco.ca for more information.

QECO strongly urges all who have not yet reached Category A4 (or Group 4) to formally apply for upgrading advice or for re-evaluation on a yearly basis to ensure they are following the most expedient route to a higher category. This advice is particularly important to teachers whose academic qualifications were obtained outside of Ontario. Applying for upgrading advice can only be of advantage to a teacher; it will never result in a lower qualification evaluation.

Members who require a duplicate or new rating statement should register and apply for a QECO statement or re-evaluation through QECO's online application form. If members have recently applied for a rating statement, there is no further action to take unless you hear otherwise from QECO.

Please remember to submit any change in pay category to your employer as soon as you receive your new rating that will result in movement on the pay grid: It is the member's responsibility to inform their employer of any change in salary category. Each year we encounter instances where a statement was issued, but the member failed to submit it to their employer, losing out on grid increase wages.

Please note,

1. Notwithstanding, existing OSSTF/FEESO Certification Rating Statements will continue to be recognized, unless or until a QECO statement has been provided.
2. Deadlines and processes for submitting a rating statement to the employer will continue to be governed by the local collective agreement.
3. The most current QECO program will be utilized. Notwithstanding, no teacher or occasional teacher will be negatively impacted by any changes to the certification program, and previous pathways provided to move to the next group will be honoured.

If you require further information, please contact Heather Bamford at heather.bamford@osstf.ca.