

AGM/AGA
2025

July 9–11 juillet



SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

James Ryan (posthumous)

This award is presented to individuals who have given meritorious service to education and/or the teaching profession at the provincial/territorial, national or international level.

Nominated by The Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)



For over 30 years, James Ryan was known to many across Canada's education sector. He was a teacher with OECTA's Toronto Elementary and Secondary Teachers units and served as a special education resource teacher. From 1997 to 2000, James served as an Ontario Teachers' Federation Governor, and in 2002, he was elected as a Councillor on the OECTA Provincial Executive. James went on to hold every position on the Provincial Executive, except Treasurer. James served his inaugural two-year terms as OECTA President, first from 2009 to 2011 and then from 2013 to 2015. During these terms, he was also a member of the CTF/FCE Board of Directors. Through each of his roles, James demonstrated his passion for marginalized individuals and communities.

He dedicated his time and energy to many labour and social justice initiatives and served on numerous committees, including the CTF/FCE Advisory Committee on Diversity and Human Rights. He co-chaired the Ontario Coalition for Social Justice and was instrumental in OECTA's participation in the 2010 World Pride Parade in Toronto. Additionally, he supported the building of a school in Haiti and played a key role in OECTA's commitment to the Onigaming Summer Literacy Camp in partnership with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities – a cause that OECTA continues to support to this day.

On January 2, 2025, James passed away peacefully following a long illness. He will be remembered for his infectious humour and humble leadership, as not only a leader but a friend to many. James' dedication to justice, equity, and community will continue to inspire many.

Special Recognition Award