



# Tesa Fiddler, OECTA

Candidate for Vice-President in Designated Diversity Position

Tesa Fiddler is a dedicated educator with 30 years of experience, working primarily with Indigenous students and families and advocating for their rights.

Tesa has led curriculum development and community engagement efforts focused on Indigenous cultures, knowledges, and Truth and Reconciliation. Tesa believes equity and Indigenous education must be central in schools, and that educators play a key role in fostering respectful relationships and reconciliation between Indigenous, equity-deserving, and non-Indigenous communities.

Tesa's imprint is vast: OECTA's First Nations, Métis and Inuit Work Group (2017-2018); United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (2022-2025); OECTA's Diversity Advisory Board (2024-2026); CTF/FCE Advisory Committee on Indigenous Education (2019-2025). Tesa has also served on boards at Children's Mental Health Ontario, Confederation College, and various other advisory committees.

Tesa's work continues to leave a lasting impact, supporting inclusive education and the wellbeing of Indigenous and equity-deserving students and families across Ontario and beyond.

## Election Statement

Tesa Fiddler, a proud member of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug and recipient of the 2019 CTF/FCE Outstanding Indigenous Educator Award, lives in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

With 30 years' experience in education, she is a committed First Nations teacher and advocate for Indigenous education, equity, anti-racism, and social justice. As Coordinator of Indigenous Education, Tesa supports curriculum development and leads professional learning grounded in Indigenous knowledges and perspectives.

Tesa's advocacy is shaped by her personal healing journey from the impacts of colonization and the Indian Residential School System. A mother of two, including one adult child with complex needs, she deeply understands the barriers families face in accessing equitable support.

Tesa's work focuses on creating culturally safe, relevant learning spaces for Indigenous students and families. Tesa remains steadfast in her commitment to improving mental health supports, fostering inclusive school environments, and building strong relationships between education systems and Indigenous and other equity-deserving communities.

*Tesa Fiddler*

