



## 2026 CTF/FCE Women's Symposium Call for session proposals

### CTF/FCE Women's Symposium

**April 30 – May 2, 2026 | Toronto, Ontario**

**Theme: Our Roots, Our Strength, Our Rise**

Dear colleagues,

The 2026 CTF/FCE Women's Symposium is taking place from April 30 to May 2 at the Courtyard by Marriott Toronto Downtown. The theme for this year's event is **"Our Roots, Our Strength, Our Rise"**.

This event is co-hosted by the Ontario affiliates: the Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO), the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO), the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA), the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO), and the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF).

The Symposium brings together members, staff, and leaders from our Member and Associate Organizations who identify as women to reflect on, and intentionally build upon, the foundations laid by generations of women in public education and society at large. Together, we will celebrate the progress we have made while addressing the obstacles that remain.

Through dynamic discussions, interactive workshops, and meaningful networking, participants will explore how collective action and collaboration can amplify their impact across diverse areas of work. You will leave this event inspired, confident and equipped with strategic tools to continue your personal and professional growth – and to help others rise alongside you.

### Session Proposal Topics

This year's Symposium invites workshops that explore the following sub-themes:

- **Rooted in Care: Wellness, Mental Health, and the Invisible Load.** Examining the interconnected realities of women's wellness, burnout, mental health, and care responsibilities—both visible and invisible.
- **Rising Voices: Confidence, Leadership Pathways, and Women's Influence in the Labour Movement.** Sessions that help women build confidence, amplify their voices, and advance in leadership roles across unions, labour relations, and collective bargaining.

- **Strength in Connection: Networks, Mentorship, Allyship and Collective Solidarity.** Exploring approaches to building strong networks, fostering mentorship relationships, and engaging allies to strengthen women's rights and solidarity across the education sector.
- **Confronting Inequities: Gender-Based Violence, Workplace Inclusion, and Intersectional Barriers.** Addressing gender-based violence in schools and workplaces, and examining how accessibility, disability justice, and intersectional inequities shape women's safety, inclusion, and empowerment.
- **Equitable Futures: Technology, AI, and Gender Bias.** Exploring how emerging technologies affect women's work and leadership and identifying ways to challenge gender bias and ensure digital innovation advances gender justice.

## Session Proposal Guidelines




We welcome proposals for **interactive and engaging sessions** that foster dialogue, reflection, and practical learning aligned with the Symposium's theme and sub-themes. Proposed sessions should aim to:

- Provide concrete strategies, tools, or insights that support women's leadership, professional development, and overall well-being in the education sector.
- Strengthen networks of connection, mentorship, and collaboration to build a supportive community where women can rise together.
- Examine current challenges—such as equity, representation, advocacy, and workplace inclusion—and offer pathways to transform these into opportunities for greater impact and influence.

All sessions should be relevant to union leaders, teachers, educators, and professionals working across roles such as communications, advocacy, government relations, professional learning, research, bargaining, and more.

## Format and timing

To keep the program dynamic, we are offering three ways to share knowledge and spark dialogue:

-  **Presentation (30 minutes)**  
A structured talk to share information, research findings, or new insights with participants. Ideal for showcasing projects, best practices, or innovative ideas.
-  **Workshop (75 minutes)**  
An interactive session with collaborative activities or problem-solving exercises. Perfect for engaging participants directly and providing practical tools they can take back to their organizations.
-  **Roundtable (45 minutes)**  
A facilitated discussion where participants exchange perspectives on specific topics. Great for surfacing challenges, generating ideas, and building collective understanding.

## Process, deadline, and financial considerations for proposals

- Please fill out the [Call for Proposals form](#) by **January 19, 2026 (17:00 ET)**

- Presenters whose submissions have been selected will be informed by **January 30, 2026**.
- The [session submission form](#) must be signed by the Executive Director or a designate of your organization to be considered.
- Presenters from CTF/FCE Member or Associate Organizations receive free registration to the event.
- Travel, accommodation, and meal expenses other than meals offered at the Conference are the responsibility of the workshop presenter's organization. Please advise the CTF/FCE if your organization requires assistance with expenses related to your participation as a presenter.

### [Download the Call for Proposals](#)

We look forward to receiving your proposal.

### **Questions?**

For any questions about the organization of this conference, please contact Obianuju Harbor:  
[oharbor@ctf-fce.ca](mailto:oharbor@ctf-fce.ca).

Thank you.