



THE FEDERATION TRIBUNE

FALL 2025
Volume 1
Issue 1

From the Canadian Teachers' Federation Board of Directors

The CTF/FCE Board of Directors works year-round to champion the interests of teachers and education workers across Canada.

Board members help shape the Federation's national priorities, unite and strengthen our collective voice, and advance high-quality public education. Meeting in person three times a year, the Board tackles pressing policy issues, charts the Federation's strategic direction, and monitors progress on the work that matters most to educators—ensuring your concerns and realities drive the national agenda.



Petition to End Notwithstanding Clause Use to Bypass Collective Bargaining Rights

The CTF/FCE Board passed a motion that the CTF/FCE lead the coordination of a House of Commons petition, calling upon the Federal Government to condemn and take action to restrict the usage of Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms when used to deny workers their collective bargaining rights and to deny human rights.



NATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Standing Up for Alberta's Teachers:

Pan-Canadian Solidarity in Ottawa as Teacher Leaders Rise to Support The Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) and Uphold Charter Rights.

OTTAWA, November 18-19, 2025 — The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF/FCE) unequivocally condemns the Government of Alberta's decision to violate teachers' right to strike and other fundamental democratic rights by invoking the Notwithstanding Clause to force educators back to work.

Throughout the ATA's lengthy and deeply challenging round of bargaining, the CTF/FCE has stood firmly with them—providing pan-Canadian research, mobilizing its Teacher Bargaining Network, liaising with Education International and the Canadian Labour Congress, and [urging the Prime Minister and federal leaders to raise concerns](#).

The precedent set by this legislation is alarming for the entire Canadian labour movement. It represents a direct attack on free and fair collective bargaining, and a threat to workers' rights across the country.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Class Size and Complexity: A Growing Challenge Despite Some Inroads

Class size and complexity have continued to garner national attention recently. While incremental progress has been made through modest commitments from some provincial governments, Member and Associate Organizations echoed common challenges and shared strategies for what's next.

Artificial Intelligence in Public Education

To facilitate knowledge sharing across Canada, representatives from The Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA), the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF), and the New Brunswick Teachers' Association (NBTA) shared their work related to artificial intelligence (AI).

A common thread was the need to ensure the safe and ethical use of AI in K-12 schools. This includes the urgent need for AI regulation, safeguards, and comprehensive policies, while ensuring educator autonomy and respecting professional judgement. Presenters cautioned about "corporate encroachment" into public schools through EdTech, privately owned AI tools, and public-private partnerships, raising questions of privacy and data security. All agreed that AI must support, rather than replace, human-centered learning in today's educational environment.

Learn more about the CTF/FCE Guidelines:
[Towards a Responsible use of Artificial Intelligence in Canadian Public Education](#)



ATA President Jason Schilling, OTF Secretary-Treasurer Ian Pettigrew, NBTA President Heidi Ryder presenting on AI.

Rise in the Use of the Notwithstanding Clause in Canada

In the past five years, the notwithstanding clause has been used more frequently to deny human and democratic rights than at any other time in our lifetimes. Recently, Premiers in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec, and Ontario have invoked it to override specific Charter rights. The Board condemned provincial governments' implementation of "anti-worker policies".



CLINT'S CORNER

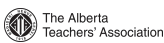
It is clearer than ever that many of the issues public education is wrestling with in Canada are not only education issues. Our classrooms are simply reflections of the communities we live in. The children who come to learn are living in a politically fraught society where discourse is more and more polarized, angry, and aggressive. The Notwithstanding Clause is increasingly being used to attack and strip rights—often targeting education. Students, parents, teachers, and education workers are all feeling the impact. All this strife comes into the school every day when the bell rings, and educators are expected to be a major part of the solution to these ills. Unfortunately, governments don't seem willing to provide the resources to let us properly help, and that is what the CTF/FCE Board continues to discuss and act on. You'll see in the decisions of the Board a continued push on the issues affecting you each day, as well as working to engage federal politicians in support of the larger societal problems impacting you and your students. Please know that the stories of your experiences, passed on through our surveys and your reps at the Board, are what inform and drive our work every day.

In solidarity,

Clint Johnston, CTF/FCE President



Canadian
Teachers'
Federation



Honouring Chris Goodsir (OSSTF/FEESO):
A Voice of Integrity, Insight, and
National Solidarity



CTF/FCE President Clint Johnston (left) and Executive Director Cassandra Hallett (right) thank outgoing OSSTF/FEESO General Secretary Chris Goodsir for his contributions to public education in Ontario and Canada.

After more than four years serving on the CTF/FCE Board of Directors, **Chris Goodsir** is departing his role as General Secretary of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation (OSSTF/FEESO), leaving a meaningful imprint on the CTF/FCE. Cassandra Hallett, CTF/FCE Executive Director, praised the “thoughtfulness, intelligence, and care” Chris brought to every discussion—qualities that shaped some of the Board’s most challenging discussions.

In his farewell remarks, Chris reflected on what sets the CTF/FCE apart: a national space where debate remains principled, respectful, and safe. He emphasized the importance of unity across jurisdictions and called Canada’s public education system “the greatest tool of social mobility,” crediting it with helping his own family build a new life in Canada. Chris’s steady leadership and national perspective will be deeply missed.

“Publicly funded education is the greatest tool for social mobility that we have in this country. We must defend it in every jurisdiction, and the CTF/FCE provides an essential national voice and common ground for all of us to do so.”

Chris Goodsir
Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation

BOARD DECISIONS
IN ACTION

An overview of motions carried by the CTF/FCE Board at its November meeting.

Seeking Leave to Intervene at The Supreme Court – Saskatchewan V. UR Pride

The CTF/FCE, as a part of a union coalition, will intervene in the upcoming case involving the University of Regina (UR) Pride v. the Government of Saskatchewan at the Supreme Court of Canada concerning Bill 137, “Parents’ Bill of Rights,” and invoking the notwithstanding clause.

Support for The Alberta Teachers’ Association from the Canadian Teachers’ Defence Fund

The CTF/FCE will contribute \$100,000 to The Alberta Teachers’ Association from the Canadian Teachers’ Defence Fund.

FROM YOUR NATIONAL
FEDERATION

Cross-Canada Survey

The CTF/FCE conducts a bi-annual cross-Canada survey of all its Member and Associate Organizations to get a high-level overview of the key issues they and their members are facing.

The fall 2025 findings revealed:

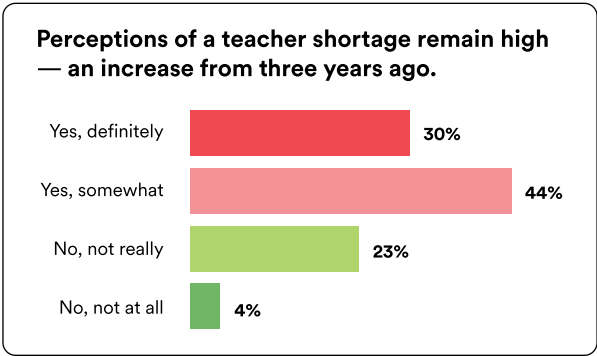
- Class size and complexity remain a top priority.
- Violence and aggression in schools remain a major problem.
- Concerns regarding AI in schools are increasing.
- The teacher shortage is most severe amongst French teachers.

Permanent Funding of the National School
Food Program

In April 2024, the [federal government launched the National School Food Program](#), with an investment of \$1 billion over a period of 5 years. The CTF/FCE has been advocating for this program for over a decade, collaborating in recent years with organizations such as the Breakfast Clubs of Canada and the Coalition for Healthy School Food to make it a reality. Now, we’re celebrating the [permanent funding of this program](#) to ensure that every child in Canada has access to nutritious food. All provinces and territories will continue working with the Government of Canada to expand the program into more schools across the country.

Increase in National Awareness of the
Teacher Retention and Recruitment Crisis

Since 2022, the CTF/FCE has partnered with Abacus Data to conduct national public opinion polls to track changes on issues related to public education. Our latest poll revealed **74% of Canadians believe there is a teacher shortage** in their community, up from 67% three years ago.



Where CMEC Falters, the CTF/FCE Leads

Directors discussed the ongoing challenges of coordination in education and noted the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC)’s lack of communication with the Federation. In reflecting on past international work, Board members noted how provincial and territorial governments often compete with one another on the global stage—undermining Canada’s ability to present a cohesive front and act with shared purpose.

This contrast underscored a broader sentiment shared by the Board: **where governments struggle to collaborate, the CTF/FCE succeeds.** Directors emphasized that the Federation provides what CMEC often cannot—a unified national voice, consistent leadership, and a space where differences contribute to collective action rather than derail it.

The Board emphasized that cooperation across provincial and territorial borders remains essential, and a vital counter-measure to CMEC’s lack of engagement.

“One of the foundational things about the CTF/FCE is our international programs. Through that, Canadian teachers have garnered a huge respect internationally that I don’t think we ever could have on our own as individual teacher organizations.”

Ardith Shirley
New Brunswick Teachers’ Association

International Solidarity

As a proud and active affiliate of Education International (EI), the CTF/FCE supports teacher unions around the world facing dire challenges, whether from natural disasters or disastrous government actions.

In November, the CTF/FCE received Urgent Action Appeals from EI in support of the following sister education unions:

Jamaica Teachers’ Association

Following the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa, EI provided a financial contribution to provide vital support and meet the evolving needs on the ground in Jamaica. The CTF/FCE also contributed \$5,000 and invited Member and Associate Organizations to contribute what they could to assist affected colleagues, their families, and school communities.

Trade Union of Education and Science Workers of Ukraine

Amid the ongoing war, teachers in Ukraine face alarming legislative changes which threaten the status of the teaching profession and violate international labour standards. These changes could cause mass dismissals, deteriorate education quality, harm millions of students, and undermine Ukraine’s post-war recovery.

The CTF/FCE joined EI’s call for solidarity and sent a letter of protest to Ukrainian and Canadian officials demanding withdrawal of these measures. Many EI affiliates also responded, and as of December 2, 2025, the Ukrainian government Committee on Education agreed to abandon “fixed-term contracts” and the 36-hour work week.



ACROSS THE BOARD

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