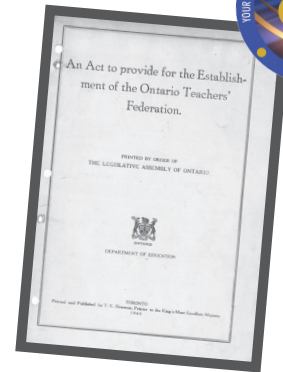




## A message from the OTF President

Michael (Mike) Foulds



Overview of the Teaching Profession Act of 1944 (OTF archives)

**“Remember, Remember! the 5th of November...”**  
 Habing, B. (2006, November 3). *The Fifth of November—English Folk Verse.*

On November 4<sup>th</sup> Canada lost The Honourable Senator Emeritus Murray Sinclair. I would like to think Ontario’s teachers can honour his legacy best by committing to be agents of change in implementing the Truth and Reconciliation’s Calls to Action.

Then on November 5<sup>th</sup> our southern neighbour went to the polls and elected Donald Trump as their President and flipped control of the Senate to Republicans. Voter turnout is expected to be around 65 per cent in this election.

Recent elections in British Columbia and Nova Scotia highlight the dynamic political landscape in Canada, and these shifts may carry significant implications for Ontario’s future. In British Columbia, the general election held in October 2024 was not the decisive majority for the New Democratic Party (NDP) many assumed when the election was called, primarily because the ‘right’ was unified behind the Conservative Party which went from 2 per cent of the votes in the previous election to nearly forming the government.

Similarly, New Brunswick’s election showcased a tight race between the incumbent Progressive Conservative Party and the Liberal Party. The election race was largely focused on health care and affordability but Policy 713, the Conservative gender identity policy in schools, was also a factor in this election and New Brunswickers rejected the hard right stance of the incumbents.

In Saskatchewan, only one in two residents (53 per cent) who were registered to vote, cast their ballots in the 2024 general election that returned the Saskatchewan Party to their fifth straight victory. This is a concerning low turnout particularly with polls being open for seven days in this election.

The election of Donald Trump to a second term and the polarized political environment in the USA serves as a reminder of the importance of every election in shaping the future. Americans have cast their vote on critical issues like democracy, health care, the economy, and women’s reproductive health and rights. Among others, these issues parallel Ontarians’ and Canadians’ concerns. Provincial leaders would be wise to not only consider provincial matters but also the broader implications of leadership on progressive causes.

This ‘season of elections’ should inspire Ontarians to demand accountability and consider what kind of government will best represent their collective interests in the coming years. Do we want a province focused on building roads in the GTA to line the pockets of developers? A government that thinks a private spa is the best way to use public lands? A government that has failed to maintain inflation increases to education spending resulting in underfunded classrooms and workplaces?

Yours in education,

*Mike*

**Michael (Mike) Foulds**  
 President