



# Membership Survey - Fees

## Dear Home and School Members:

Like most organizations, the costs of doing business have increased while revenues have decreased. This needs to be addressed in order that OFHSA remains financially viable and continues to be an independent voice of advocacy in our education system. Therefore, your OFHSA Board of Directors (volunteers who take on a variety of duties to keep the Federation running) is seeking your input. We would like you to take this survey to your members, either electronically or at your association's next meeting, as time permits. Please send your association's collective feedback to: [info@ofhsa.on.ca](mailto:info@ofhsa.on.ca) by **Wednesday, February 21, 2018**, in order that the board of directors has time to compile responses and prepare proposed fee changes prior to the OFHSA Annual Meeting package being sent. It is very important that all members have a say as we consider fee changes.

## What does your membership fee go towards?

OFHSA prides itself in supporting our members and advocating for the well-being of children and youth at the school, school board, provincial and federal levels.

- We have an Executive Secretary, OFHSA's single paid employee, who can assist our members with the day-to-day operations from our office, which has costs to run (rent, phone, data charges, photocopier, office supplies and equipment, computer hardware and software).
- OFHSA is required to have an annual financial audit, which is presented to all members at the Annual Meeting.
- There are costs associated with representation to the Canadian Home & School Federation and Ministry of Education consultations/committees.
- There are costs of mailings, printed materials, awards, and other general costs of doing business.
- The majority of the membership fee goes towards member liability insurance, which costs approximately \$115 per association per year. Consider the following:
  - The minimum membership requirement to start a new association is currently 6 members per association with a current \$15 membership fee per member.
  - There are also associations that depend on Life Members, who do not pay annual fees, to meet the minimum members.
  - Approximately one third of associations do not collect enough membership fees to even cover the cost of their liability insurance.

Membership fees have remained unchanged for **15 years**. Our annual government grant funding, which is not guaranteed, is not enough to make up the revenue shortages. It has not increased in at least **12 years** and there are strict conditions on how it can be spent.

The OFHSA Board of Directors is currently exploring potential solutions to these financial challenges. Fee changes need to be presented and voted upon by the membership at the OFHSA Annual Meeting. Fee changes would take effect for the 2018-2019 year.

## Fee changes under consideration:

- a) Membership fee increase from \$15 up to \$25 per member
- b) Annual association insurance fee to be introduced (up to \$100 per association)
- c) Increase minimum number of members per association (new and existing)
- d) Combination of a, b and c (e.g. \$20 membership fee and \$50 association insurance fee; remain at \$15 with a minimum of 10 members, etc.)
- e) Charge an annual fee for Life Members or discontinue offering this type of membership.

OFHSA needs everyone's input in order to secure the financial viability of the Federation. Please send OFHSA the opinions of your members and put forward any additional suggestions your association may have. Your OFHSA Board of Directors thanks you for taking time to help us find a solution to maintain the level of commitment and service you are accustomed to.