



THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

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Dear Members:

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations Board of Directors, I am connecting with you related to the upcoming proposed increase to the OFHSA membership fees.

Through OFHSA, school-based Home and School Associations are active in Ontario school communities. Many parents, school staff and community members volunteer with the local Association, giving their time and energy to work in partnership with the school.

OFHSA is leading the provincial parent voice by providing our members with parent engagement and leadership resources designed to be used in Ontario schools.

OFHSA has held firm on our fees for more than a decade while still providing services and resources that promote **"The Best for Each Student"**.

The past ten years have been marked by increasing costs, decreasing revenues and further demand on OFHSA services and resources. OFHSA has streamlined operational expenses, established various cost-cutting measures, creating a more efficient Federation while still providing the services that are needed to support our members and local Associations. Furthermore, OFHSA also faces cuts in funding normally provided to the Federation by the Ontario Government.

OFHSA Conference

The Ontario Government's pause to the PRO Grant directly impacted decision making related to the 2019 Conference. We hope members appreciate the planning that precedes Conference and, without confirmation of the Grant, the Directors determined that without secured grant funding, the Conference MUST be offered in a fiscally responsible manner.

OFHSA recently learned that the Federation **did NOT receive a Parents Reaching Out Grant**, hence an amazing Conference experience will be enjoyed, with minimal financial impacts to the Federation.

At the Board of Directors Meeting held in November, the Board overwhelmingly voted to increase the OFHSA membership fees by \$5.00 (for operating expenses) beginning September 2019.

The Federation Directors have demonstrated fiscal constraint:

- No personal mileage or other expenses related to OFHSA business has been reimbursed
- Canadian Home and School Federation – extended a one year reprieve in membership
- Significant reduction to office rent expenses through a co-tenant sharing opportunity
- No Conference and Annual Meeting expenses of the Directors, OFHSA workgroup members and the President will be reimbursed

OFHSA Member's Fees Support:

- Retaining the OFHSA Office
- Maintaining direct supports for members, Associations and Councils through the Executive Secretary
- Promoting member and Association resources, electronic mailings, website and social media
- Sustaining OFHSA's provincial presence as a recognized parent group

We hope this information and rationale is helpful to our members and local Associations. Programs and events focused on the Vision and Mission of Home and School ensure success in the work we will accomplish together, centered on advocacy, family engagement and **"The Best for Each Student"**.

Thank you for all you continue to do for Ontario's students and a strong public education system.

Sincerely,

OFHSA President

The Best for Each Student

A MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN HOME AND SCHOOL FEDERATION