



Unit Update:
April 8, 2026

Ottawa Catholic Teacher Retirement Party



ARE YOU RETIRING THIS YEAR?? Let us celebrate YOU! The 2026 Ottawa Catholic Teachers Retirement Dinner and Celebration will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at the Infinity Centre. [Register here](#) by April 10, 2026, at noon!



Rest, Rights, and Resilience

The Ottawa Catholic Teachers Professional Development Committee invites you to join us on **April 23, 2026, at 5:15 p.m. at the Brookstreet Hotel** for a restorative and informative wellness event. The evening will include a guided yoga session, a healing circle focused on relaxation and renewal, as well as practical mental health and self-care strategies to support your well-being throughout the school year. Enjoy delicious food and refreshments, draws for prizes, and time to relax, connect, and build community with colleagues in a welcoming atmosphere. Come recharge your energy, strengthen your resilience, and leave feeling supported. We look forward to seeing you there! [Register here](#) by April 9th!

Red for Ed Days in Ottawa Schools

The next Ottawa education affiliates **Red for Ed** day will be this **Friday, April 10**. This visible show of unity reflects our shared commitment to strong, well-funded, and safe public education for all. By wearing red, we amplify the voices of education workers and the communities we serve! #RedforEd



Provincial Day of Action-April 29

Unions across Ontario are coming together on April 29 for a Provincial Day of Action to defend and strengthen public education. This coordinated effort highlights the urgent need for increased funding, smaller class sizes, and better support for students and educators. By standing united, we are sending a clear message: strong public schools are essential to strong communities. **Wear your Red for Ed gear on Wednesday, April 29!**

Ottawa Catholic Teachers Unit Awards

Do you know of an OECTA colleague deserving of recognition for their teaching excellence, outstanding leadership, and advocacy? Why not consider nominating them for an Ottawa Catholic Teachers Unit Award! Nominations are now open for the [Servant Leadership](#) and [Member Advocacy](#) awards, as well as the [OT Award of Excellence](#). Click [here](#) for more information on each award.

Nominations close Tuesday, April 14.

AIDE Education Grant

In our commitment to build teacher capacity in accessibility, inclusion, diversity, and equity (AIDE), we are offering a one-time reimbursement to Ottawa Catholic Teacher members (Permanent or Occasional) who have successfully completed an AQ in accessibility, inclusion, diversity, and equity **between June 1, 2025 and May 15, 2026 and have not received any other funding associated with this course.** Approvals will occur until the funds are exhausted or May 15, 2026, whichever comes first. For more information regarding OCT approved AIDE courses and to find the application form, click [here](#).

THANK AN ALLY with the AIDE Committee

The Ottawa Catholic Teachers' Accessibility, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (A.I.D.E.) Committee recognizes and celebrates OECTA members who make a positive impact in the lives of their colleagues by being true allies. An ally actively offers support, assistance, and empathy to fellow members, including to those with disabilities; Black, racialized, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit members; and those who identify as two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, or asexual.

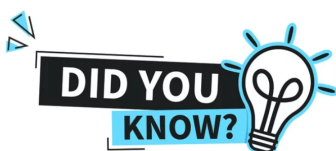
If you have an ally who you wish to recognize, please complete this [form](#) so that Ottawa Catholic Teachers can formally acknowledge their positive actions to promote Accessibility, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity.

Spring Teacher Education Grants

Applications for the Teacher Education Grants are now being accepted. Visit our [website](#) for more information and the criteria to apply. **The deadline to submit your application is this Friday, April 10. Click [here](#) to access the application form.**

Funding for Religious Education in Catholic Schools Part 1

Did you know that permanent teachers employed by the OCSB may apply for a 50% reimbursement for the cost of the Religious Education in Catholic Schools Part 1 course if they take it within the first four years of permanent employment? The form to apply for the subsidy can be found on the Staff Portal under the Forms Tab and search for "Religious Education Expense Reimbursement."



Privacy settings on your Google Docs matter! Be sure to check that only the correct people have access to your documents in your Drive to keep your information safe. If you use the "Anyone at the Board can view" option, your document can be searched and viewed by all.

Check your setting so you are not sharing sensitive information

Meet the Unit Executive:

Meet the Unit Executive is a way for members to learn about who serves on the Unit Executive and represents them at the local exec table. This week we are highlighting Past President Michele Pierce.



Michele's been a familiar face in OECTA since her first days in the classroom. Today, she's still supporting teachers as an educational consultant in the Student Success Department. As our Past President and a seasoned mentor, Michele is the "organizational memory" of our Unit Executive helping our new leaders find their footing. When the school year is done and she isn't busy with our elections or encouraging members to get more involved, you'll find her in PEI, where she enjoys walks along the shoreline.

Upcoming Events	
Event	Date and Location
PD Event	Register Today! Thursday, April 23, 2026, Brookstreet
Retirement Celebration	Register Today! Thursday, May 21, 5pm, Infinity Centre
Golf Tournament	Save the Date! Saturday, June 6 at Metcalfe Golf Club

Stay Connected!

Know a fellow OECTA member who isn't getting the bi-weekly updates? Remind them to register their personal email with OECTA Provincial using this [link](#). We use Provincial's database to update our local email list. Registering with Provincial also ensures you are kept up to date with all information regarding Provincial events such as conferences and any other important communications. If you are a newly hired Teacher and do not yet have your OECTA number, you can also access all updates on our website: <https://www.ottawacatholicteachers.ca/unit-updates-bi-weekly>

Unit Office Staff and Contact Information

Office Phone Number: 613-723-0959

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Helpful Links

Edvantage | www.edvantage.ca | 1-866-750-6847

Employee and Family Assistance Plan | login.lifeworks.com | 1-844-880-9142

OECTA Provincial | www.catholicteachers.ca | 1-800-268-7230

Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan | www.otip.com | phone contact numbers [here](#)

Ontario Teachers Pension Plan | www.otpp.com | 1-800-668-0105