



Ontario
College of
Teachers

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS WELCOMES ONTARIO'S PROPOSED ANTI-BULLYING LEGISLATION

The College welcomes the *Accepting Schools Act*, which addresses bullying of all kinds, including bullying related to gender identity and sexual orientation as well as race, ancestry, colour, religion, and disability.

"Bullying is very painful, damaging and can cause lasting, traumatic harm to students," says the College Registrar Michael Salvatori, OCT. "The spirit of this legislation is aligned with the standards of practice and ethical standards that guide all members of Ontario's teaching profession."

The College recently approved a new three-part Additional Qualifications course on inclusive education to help teachers create learning environments that honour equity and diversity. For example, the course incorporates theories of child and adolescent physical and social development and identity formation through the lens of equity and human rights.

"Whether it is verbal, physical or cyberbullying, this behaviour doesn't usually go away on its own and often gets worse with time – it needs to be dealt with directly," says College Chair Liz Papadopoulos, OCT. "The Inclusive Classroom course provides the right tools to promote classroom diversity, equitable practices and the inclusion of all students."