

Members of

## The Alberta Teachers' Association!

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Canadian Teachers' Federation!



Canadian Teachers' Federation  
Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants

[www.ctf-fce.ca](http://www.ctf-fce.ca)





Founded in 1920, the Canadian Teachers' Federation is a national alliance of provincial and territorial teacher organizations that represent over **232,000 elementary and secondary school teachers** across Canada. Globally, CTF is affiliated with **Education International (EI)** -- the voice of teachers and other education employees across the globe. A federation of 396 associations and unions in 171 countries and territories, EI represents some 32.5 million educators and support professionals in education institutions from early childhood to university.

As the **bilingual voice for the teaching profession in Canada**, CTF leads a national vision for quality publicly funded public education. Through its advocacy activities, CTF tells the story of teachers and students, about their challenges and successes in our schools, and lobbies for measures to help every student reach his/her full potential. Although the responsibility for education lies with the provinces and territories, issues such as child poverty, child and youth mental health, safe and caring schools, and trade agreements-- need to be addressed at the federal level. This is where CTF steps in to raise the teacher voice.

CTF provides a **national forum** for Member organizations to come together, to discuss and to collaborate on the way forward in supporting public education through policy development, research and analysis, advocacy and programs. CTF monitors and analyses trends and emerging issues in education such as the privatization and commercialization of public education, as well as trade agreements and federal legislation. In cooperation with Member organizations, CTF regularly take the teachers' pulse on social and professional issues via national surveys and focus groups. This research and information then informs policy and advocacy at the national level. For example, in the months leading up to the 2015 federal election, CTF mounted a national advocacy campaign "Hear My Voice" based on the results of a national survey showing 95% of teachers calling federal attention to support children and youth mental health. Since the federation election, the doors of communications have reopened between the federal government and the Canadian Teachers' Federation resulting in more federal attention and dialogue on issues affecting our students and classrooms.

CTF and Member organizations can manifest solidarity in various ways when the ATA faces government interference, unfair negotiation tactics and other actions interfering with labour rights. If needed, the ATA can access the CTF Teachers' Defence Fund to support strike activity and/or to fund legal costs incurred in addressing issues of national

interest. The fund and the collective solidarity of 232,000 teachers have been mobilized to assist and support teachers in their struggles. Teacher solidarity benefits not only teachers but also students, parents and public education.

CTF also works with our partners throughout society to move forward on the rights of women, of First Nations, Métis and Inuit education as well as on social justice, labour rights, sexual and gender minorities, human rights and more.

Based in Ottawa, CTF is governed by a Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Policy, priorities and budget are adopted by delegates to the Annual General Meeting. The national body of teachers is funded by Member organizations at the rate of \$28.30 per teacher per year.

## The Alberta teacher voice at the heart of CTF

At the 2016 Annual General Meeting, ATA President H Mark Ramsankar was elected to serve as CTF President from July 2017 to July 2019. Mark has served on the CTF Executive Committee for many years and chaired the Finance Committee along with other advisory committees.

The ATA is well represented at every level of the federation's structure including all CTF Advisory Committees. ATA members currently serving a two-year term are:

- Hali Heavy Shield - CTF Advisory Committee on Aboriginal Education;
- Sean Grainger - CTF Advisory Committee on Human Rights and Diversity;
- Diane Sellars-Myshchyshyn – CTF Advisory Committee on the Status of Women;
- Jacqueline Vermette Lafrenière – CTF Advisory Committee on French as a First Language, and
- H Mark Ramsankar – Chair, CTF Advisory Committee on the Teaching Profession.



CTF President-Designate H. Mark Ramsankar

The ATA also has representation on the CTF board of Directors. The current ATA members are:

Carol Henderson, past president of the ATA  
H Mark Ramsankar, president of the ATA  
Gordon Thomas, executive secretary of the ATA

## CTF VISION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

The mission of the teaching profession is to promote the well-being and education of all children and youth. In our complex and rapidly changing society, lifelong learning is a right and responsibility of all people and from this perspective the education of children and young people is a crucial phase. A system of public education must be rooted in the principles of universality, equity and responsiveness.

Public education must be of high quality and be supported by adequate public resources that are collected and distributed fairly and equitably. The goals and expectations society sets for learners and schools must be both challenging and realistic, and progress towards these goals must be evaluated in a comprehensive and fair manner. A strong, publicly funded education system is essential to the preservation and promotion of a democratic society and schools must prepare learners to become caring, responsive and active members of society. A knowledgeable, committed and responsible teaching profession is essential to the provision of quality education.

## CTF PROGRAMS

### Project Overseas

Every year, the ATA sponsors ten volunteer teacher members to co-facilitate PD workshops overseas for a three-week period during the summer. Since 1962, 291 volunteers from the ATA have participated in 450 missions, working with other Canadian teachers and with teacher colleagues in other countries. Many current projects throughout Africa and the Caribbean include, but are not limited to, literacy acquisition, gender equality, special education and peace education, as well as the core subject areas of English, Math, Science and Social Studies, within a child-centered methodology.



ATA members who took part in the 2016 Project Overseas

As well as supporting Project Overseas, the ATA generously provides further funding to CTF's International Program "Teachers' Action for Learning". In the past year, ATA provided \$60,000 in support of all three Program Areas: Teachers Action for Teachers, Gender Equality and Teacher Organizations. These funds enabled CTF to support overseas partners as (among other things) they reinforced and enhanced PD initiated by Project Overseas, mobilized communities in support of schools and teachers, and implemented programs to build girl-friendly schools and mitigate school related gender-based violence. The funds also supported leadership and capacity building programs to strengthen overseas partners' capacity to provide useful services and amplify the voice of teachers in their country.

## Imagineaction

The CTF social justice program -- a pedagogical inquiry-based platform -- enables teachers and students to carry out community projects to support the environment, citizenship, health and other social issues. Over 10,000 Alberta students were engaged and impacted by 46 social action projects that received funding from this program. A total of 240 Alberta teachers are currently registered with Imagineaction. Check out the project showcases of initiatives at [www.imagine-action.ca](http://www.imagine-action.ca)



## Speak Truth to Power



This [award-winning](#) online educational resource features lesson plans and resources for teaching human rights. Featuring 12 living Canadian defenders for human rights, this resource was developed by CTF in close collaboration with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights as well as in cooperation with the [Assembly of First Nations](#), [Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami](#) and [Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights](#). <http://sttpcanada.ctf-fce.ca/>

## Pédagogie à l'école de langue française (PELF)

This popular online resource was developed with teachers in Francophone minority settings in mind.

The site offers teaching tools, short videos and proposed activities to help teachers nurture their students' Francophone identity development while ensuring their educational. [www.pelf.ca](http://www.pelf.ca)

A must "bookmark" for every teacher working in Francophone minority settings – from Alberta to the Yukon, and from Newfoundland and Labrador to British Columbia!



## CTF EVENTS

CTF events provide opportunities for ATA representatives to meet with their provincial, territorial and international counterparts to discuss professional and labour issues of common concern, and participate in decisions for action.



ATA Delegation at the 2016 CTF Annual General Meeting in Montreal

### Annual General Meetings

The CTF Annual General Meetings held mid-July alternating between Ottawa and another location hosted by a CTF Member organization. The ATA delegation ensures the voices of Alberta teachers are heard during policy debates and resolutions.

AGM 2017 AGA

Save the dates • Réservez ces dates  
JULY 12-14 • Ottawa, Ontario  
12-14 JUILLET • Ottawa (Ontario)



## Canadian Forum on Public Education

Held immediately prior to the AGM, the forum provides an opportunity to share, discuss and expand understanding on critical matters in education. Participants from teacher organizations, government, university, public and private education, and school boards expect to challenge and to be challenged in an atmosphere of respectful, open dialogue.

In the past, Forum participants have examined mental health in schools, Aboriginal education and education funding. The 2017 Forum will focus on the **privatization and commercialization** of public education.



**THE CANADIAN FORUM ON PUBLIC EDUCATION**  
**STUDENTS BEFORE PROFIT**  
**LE FORUM CANADIEN SUR L'ÉDUCATION PUBLIQUE**  
**L'ÉDUCATION AVANT LES PROFITS**



**SAVE THE DATES • RÉSERVEZ CES DATES**  
**JULY 10-11 JUILLET 2017**  
**OTTAWA (ONTARIO)**

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## CTF Women's Symposium

Every year, CTF holds a women's issues symposium which is held either in Ottawa or hosted by a CTF Member organization. The symposium aims to gather women teacher leaders from across the country to study a particular theme or issue which will strengthen the status of women and improve the situation for women within the teaching profession and the broader societal context.

In 2017, the symposium was different from previous years. A partnership between CTF and Equal Voice was established to hold the historic *Daughters of the Vote* event marking a century of women's suffrage in Canada. The event gathered 338 young women aged 18-23 from every federal riding in Ottawa from March 6-8. Thanks to the generosity of CTF Member organizations, much of the accommodation costs of the *Daughters* were covered by CTF Member organizations. Special thanks to the ATA for covering the accommodation costs of six young Alberta *Daughters* and for sending teacher facilitators to lead discussion groups during the event.



## Francophone Symposium

Teaching in a French-language school in a minority setting means contributing to a vast societal project. Given an increasingly diverse Francophonie, teachers must address their students' varying needs, which go far beyond the traditional pedagogical framework. In addition to learning, today's francophone students must build their identity, often develop a sense of ownership of the language if they live in an exogamous family, or find their place if they are newcomers. In 2015, the ATA hosted the Francophone Symposium which was a tremendous success!

**Le Conseil  
français**



**NCTCA – 5 et 6 février 2015**  
**Centre des congrès Shaw**  
Edmonton (Alberta)



## Media Literacy Week

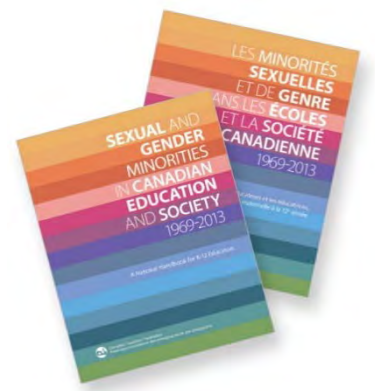
Media Literacy Week is an annual event that takes place every November. Co-led by MediaSmarts and CTF, the week puts a spotlight on the importance of digital and media literacy as key components in the education of children and young people. Since its beginning over 10 years ago, the ATA has been a staunch supporter of Media Literacy Week.



Working with Canadian schools, libraries, and educational associations and organizations, MediaSmarts and CTF seek to inspire a leap in Canadians' thinking towards media education as an important – and innovative – approach for creating thoughtful, engaged and informed young people. <http://www.medialiteracyweek.ca/>

## CTF RESOURCES

Released in 2016 by CTF, this unique resource is the result of years of research by Drs. André P. Grace and Kristopher Wells from Alberta. It gives a detailed picture of where things stand for Sexual and Gender Minorities (SGM) and lists many helpful resources for educators. The Handbook allows for a better understanding of the challenges facing SGM and Canadian society in general, while promoting equity and diversity in education. This is the sixth resource produced by CTF on SGM.



**Explore our online publications store where you will find teacher resources on:**

- Mental Health
  - Truth and Reconciliation
  - Child poverty
  - French language education in minority settings
  - First Nations, Métis and Inuit education
  - Sexual and gender minorities in education and society
  - Technology in education
  - Social justice issues, and more
- Plus you can find free educational resources, Parliamentary briefs and articles on the CTF research library which is publicly available on our website: <http://www.ctf-fce.ca/Research-Library/Forms/Documents.aspx>

**<http://publications.ctf-fce.ca>**



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Blog: Progressive Voices

YouTube: Canadian teachers

Flickr: CTF-FCE



### 2016-17 CTF Executive Committee

From left to right: Vice-Presidents **James Dinn** (President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association), **Francine Leblanc-Lebel** (President of the Ontario Teachers' Federation), **Shelley Morse** (Past President of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union), CTF President **Heather Smith** (Past President of the New Brunswick Teachers' Association), CTF President Designate **H Mark Ramsankar** (President of the Alberta Teachers' Association), CTF Secretary General **Cassie Hallett DaSilva** and CTF Vice-President **Norm Gould** (President of the Manitoba Teachers' Society).

