



The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
5th Floor
438 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario, M5G 2K8
April 12, 2021.

Dear Sir:

The Canadian Federation of University Women, Ontario Council, (CFUW) 4,300 members residing in over 49 Ontario communities, is committed to the availability of a high-quality, public education for every student.

Covid-19 is impacting the education of Ontario students in unprecedented ways: isolation from friends and teachers, no sports, no out-door activities, no trips, and the distancing of the relationship between teacher and student. CFUW is concerned by the lack of research that has been published, particularly in the field of the effects of online learning and the young child. Would the Ministry embark upon a research program in this field?

We are concerned the Ministry of Education is proposing many amendments to *The Education Act* that will embed many of the current changes raised by the dangers of the pandemic, particularly online learning, and TVO/TFO as a curricula development resource. The necessity of earning two credit online courses in order to graduate at the secondary level, and the additional educational funding to TVO/FTO, are of concern because they drastically change educational standards and funding issues.

It is announced that the teacher/student ratio will be one teacher to thirty to thirty-five students. Research indicates that teaching online takes more time than in the classroom. We urge you to re-examine this proposal.

Online learning is here to stay. We will support a clear, careful, research-based approach to this proposed methodology for educating the students of Ontario.

Respectfully,

Sandra Thomson
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