

Extra-Curricular Activities

**Members are advised
to focus their energy on
classroom teaching.**

Bill 80, the Stability and Excellence in Education Act, repeals those sections of Bill 74 which would have made the provision of extra-curricular activities mandatory for teachers. Thus, such activities remain strictly voluntary.

However, this government continues to impose draconian and poorly thought out changes on the education system. These changes have made the lives of classroom teachers increasingly difficult as they struggle to provide the best possible teaching services to Ontario's children.

A totally new curriculum has been imposed with insufficient implementation time and little professional development or resource support. Teachers have spent hundreds of hours of their own time developing appropriate lesson plans.

Chronic underfunding has meant that teachers must fill the gaps left by cuts to services. Lack of money for textbooks and other teaching materials has meant that teachers must spend extra time and effort compensating for government cuts.

Teachers continually struggle to balance the demands of work and family life. It is time for teachers, whose professionalism remains under constant attack from this government, to start taking care of themselves. Accordingly, members are advised to focus their energy on classroom teaching.