

Mandatory Recertification

**Members are Advised Not to Comply with the
Government's Recertification Program.**

Members will have received a letter from the Ontario College of Teachers regarding the Professional Learning Program. The multi-page letter outlines the College's plan to implement the government's mandatory recertification agenda. Most members will find the government's initiative intrusive and insulting.

The Business Plan that the College has submitted to the Minister of Education will require a significant increase in the College fee unless the government chooses to fund its initiative.

A number of ETFO members will shortly receive a second letter from the College indicating that they have been selected to begin the recertification program this year. If the government's recertification program continues in its current format members will have five years to complete the fourteen courses. A lot can happen in five years.

In June 2001, 97% of ETFO members voted not to comply with the government's proposed teacher recertification program.

The delegates to the ETFO Annual Meeting unanimously passed a resolution to call upon the Government of Ontario to repeal the sections of Bill 80 (The Stability and Excellence in Education Act) that impose recertification requirements on teachers.

In August, the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of OTF passed a resolution condemning the College for its proposed implementation of the government's teacher testing program.

The Affiliates and OTF are preparing a coordinated strategy to respond to the Professional Learning Program. See your Steward for the OTF *Communiqué* issued August 27, 2001.

The position of ETFO remains as follows:

"Teachers should engage in ongoing professional development on a voluntary basis by assessing their own learning needs ..." Ensuring High Professional Standards in Ontario Education, ETFO, 1999.

Members are advised:

- Not to comply with the government's recertification program.
- To check the ETFO website (www.etfo.ca) regularly for updates from ETFO.

August 31, 2001