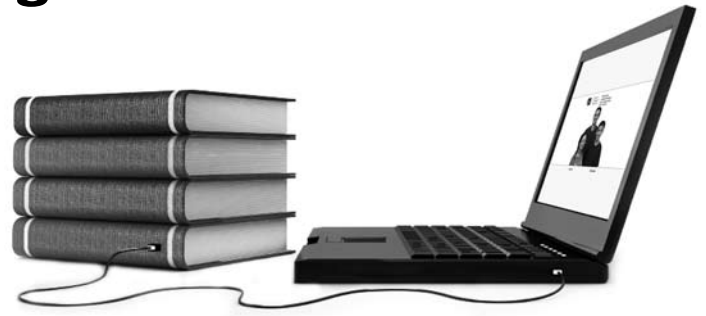


Ontario College of Teachers Responds to the Changing Role of the Principal

By **Brian McGowan**
Registrar and Chief Executive Officer
of the Ontario College of Teachers



The role of principal has expanded significantly in recent years as our education system evolves to meet society's changing expectations and the needs of our more diverse student population.

The College makes a presentation to participants in the Principal's Qualification Program (PQP), Part I that we have recently revamped to make more reflective of the changing role of the principal. The presentation offers concrete examples of the services and information available from the College, organized according to a school leader's varied responsibilities.

In your role as an informed decision maker, you can draw on the College's public register; the professional record of every certified teacher in Ontario. It is a valuable tool in the hiring process and in developing assignment plans since you have instant access to a teacher's professional qualifications and standing with the College.

You can also benefit from the growing body of information on our website about additional qualifications (AQs). The site offers information about providers and direct links to their websites, the schedule of courses and programs they are approved to offer and guidelines to each of the courses and programs that describe the purpose and learning expectations of each course.

We have recently added information about the 59 new AQs and those deleted or renamed under the recent revisions to the teachers' qualification regulation. Information will soon be available for you and your staff on how you can have a say in developing the new AQs.

In our PQP presentation, we also review the requirements under *Regulation 437/97; Professional Misconduct*, particularly section 11 (failing to supervise adequately) and explain its implications for principals and their staffs. This regulation and other education-related legislation can be found on our website to assist you in your roles as a school supervisor, informed decision maker and conflict manager.

As a member of the College of Teachers, you have access to many resources. These include:

- our 6,000 plus holdings of books, videos and journals in the Margaret Wilson Library;
- our *Transition to Teaching* study, which tracks the professional

experiences of new teachers and provides critical insight into what is working for them and what is not; and

- our growing body of ethical standards and standards of practice resources.

Our comprehensive collection of education resources is especially helpful for masters of education (MEd) students. All of this information is available online, including the library catalogue.

The ethical standards and standards of practice, along with our online resource kit are useful tools. They will guide you in your role as an ethical, pedagogical leader and as a reflective practitioner.

We are taking the further step of reviewing and revising the current PQP guideline, which was last revised in 2001. A program officer working in our Standards Unit, who came to the College as a practising principal, is leading the project. He will work in close consultation with the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario, the Ontario Principals' Council and l'association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes, thereby ensuring that practising principals play a key role in deciding what future administrators will learn.

The revisions to the guideline will also likely address issues identified in the teachers' qualification review, such as the length of the practicum, and whether it would be more useful during or after Part II of the PQP course work.

The current guideline is available at www.oct.ca → Additional Qualifications → Principal's Qualification Program. We expect the revised guideline will be finalized in 2008.

If you would like to be involved, watch our website and *Professionally Speaking* for opportunities to provide input and feedback to draft guidelines. You can receive advance announcements if you sign up for our regular electronic updates in the members' area of our website.

The College believes that supporting school leaders is an integral part of our role in regulating the teaching profession. We welcome suggestions as to how we can continue to support you and to streamline your interaction with the College.