

## Education Week an opportunity to celebrate educators, defend public education

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TORONTO, ON – As Education Week begins, the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) joins in celebrating the tireless efforts of educators who dedicate their lives to supporting students in reaching their full potential. This week is also an opportunity to commit to defending public education given its invaluable role in empowering students and building stronger communities.

In acknowledging the crucial role educators play in society, ETFO President Karen Brown says, "The commitment and professionalism of ETFO members and other education workers are what continue to sustain our public schools. Their dedication and passion pave the way for a better tomorrow. As we celebrate Education Week, let us take a moment to express our gratitude to those whose determined efforts help to make the world a better place."

In a world where challenges continuously arise, educators remain steadfast pillars of support, ensuring that every child has access to high-quality education regardless of their background or circumstance. They inspire, motivate, and instil a love for learning that transcends the walls of the classroom. To be able to do this important work, they need the government to adequately fund public education.

Adds Brown, "By once again failing to allocate adequate funding in the 2024 provincial budget, the Conservatives have chosen to perpetuate a crisis that continues to undermine public education. Despite a growing need to invest in Ontario's education system, the government persists in depriving it of the resources and supports it desperately needs. This callous disregard of the challenges educators face is a damning indictment of the government's priorities."

As we celebrate Education Week, let us reaffirm our commitment to defending and protecting public education, advocating for adequate funding, fair policies, and supportive environments for educators and students alike.

[ETFO](#) represents approximately 83,000 members, including public elementary teachers, occasional teachers, designated early childhood educators, education support personnel, and professional support personnel. Visit [BuildingBetterSchools.ca](https://BuildingBetterSchools.ca).

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