



CUREE Study Exploring Teachers' Professional Identity

To: TBU/OTBU Presidents and Members
From: Harvey Bischof, President

For Action

OSSTF/FEESO is working with the OTF and international researchers to study teachers' professional identities and their impact on classroom practice. We are asking you to participate in this important research by taking a short online survey. The survey should take approximately 20 minutes and is available in English and French.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/OntarioTeacherSurveyEnglish>
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/sondagedesenseignantsdelOntarioenfrancais>

Teachers are expected to navigate a narrow path between Ministry and Board initiatives on the one hand and their own expertise about professional practice and professional development on the other. This study investigates how teachers' professional identity helps them navigate multiple demands and how teachers (individually and collectively) create, access, share and shape professional knowledge.

To explore these issues, researchers from the *Centre for the Use of Research and Evidence in Education (CUREE)* are working with *Education International (EI)* to conduct studies in Chile, Germany, Kenya, Scotland, Singapore, Sweden and Ontario. By taking in-depth looks at seven cases, the researchers will use comparative analysis to find evidence of what supports and what obstructs teachers' professional identities. They will be paying close attention to how teachers' professional identities interact with:

- Classroom practices
- Professional development
- Leadership and collaboration
- Aspects of the education system, such as accountability systems
- Wider social and cultural contexts

The *Ontario Teachers Federation* and its affiliates (including OSSTF/FEESO) have worked with the researchers to ensure the Ontario version of the study reflects local realities. We will benefit from the international evidence the researchers' develop, and will also receive the results from OSSTF/FEESO members specifically.

OSSTF/FEESO will use the findings to advocate for public education in Ontario. As importantly, the research will give us strong evidence about teachers' lived realities that we can mobilize in future collective bargaining.



Please encourage all teachers and occasional teachers to complete the survey between **May 1 and May 15, 2018**. Remember, the more responses we have, the stronger and more reliable the data will be.

Link to survey in English: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/OntarioTeacherSurveyEnglish>

Link to survey in French:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/sondagedesenseignantsdelOntarioenfrancais>

If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact the OSSTF Public Policy Analyst, Chris Samuel at chris.samuel@osstf.ca.

CS/fd

