

**Ontario English Catholic Teachers
Association
Halton Unit**



News Release

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**Invitation to Participate in Research
Letter to Principals
Letter to teachers**

Dear Principal,

You are invited to take part in a research study entitled “Teacher Preparation and Success in Ontario”. In this study, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), Brock University, Trent University, and Université Laurentienne are collaborating with the Ministry of Education to gather information that will help us to enhance initial teacher education in Ontario.

The research has two objectives:

- 1. To explore how initial teacher education graduates in their first five years of teaching understand the skills and knowledge teachers need to be successful in Ontario schools; and**
- 2. To examine how teachers’ initial teacher education programs prepared them for the teaching profession.**

Today, Ontario teachers face new teaching challenges: a more diverse school population, rapid technological changes, a more complex set of responsibilities, and increasing demands from parents, the Ministry of Education, and school boards.

This study will provide you with the opportunity to express your views about the challenges beginning teachers face upon entering the classroom, and to provide input into the enhancement of initial teacher education in the province.

If you are willing to participate, please click once on the following link where you will find detailed information about the research.

<http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/surveys/surveyviewer2/index.php?surveyID=TUPWY>

You will then be connected to a short survey asking you to respond to questions about your school, teacher education in Ontario, and your background (about 20 minutes). At the end of the survey you will be asked about your willingness to participate in a telephone survey (about 20 minutes) and asked to provide a telephone number and most convenient times for contact.

This study has received approval from the ethics review committee of your graduating university and of your school board. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. Moreover, you may decline to answer any questions if you wish and you may withdraw from the study at anytime without penalty or negative consequence.

All information gathered from the surveys will be kept completely confidential and will not be used to evaluate your work as a principal or that of your colleagues. It will allow us to assess our own initial teacher education programs and the degree to which teachers feel suitably prepared as they begin their careers. All data will be assigned a code so that anonymity is guaranteed.

Furthermore, all data will be kept on a secured server. Access to all records is restricted to researchers only and therefore will not be accessible to anyone in your school or school board. At the end of the study, all participants will receive a summary of the results of the overall project.

Your input is important to the success of this study and it will make a difference as we work towards enhancing teacher education in Ontario.

If you have any questions about this study, please feel free to contact the research coordinator Monique Herbert at (416) 978-1128 or email at mherbert@oise.utoronto.ca.

If you have any questions or concerns about any ethical aspect of your participation in this study, you may contact the research ethics committee of each faculty of education using the contact information provided below:

University of Toronto: (416) 946-3273 or email at ethics.review@utoronto.ca

Brock University: (905) 688-5550 x 3035 or email at reb@brocku.ca

Trent University: (705) 748-1011 x 7050 or email at kmauro@trentu.ca

Université Laurentienne: (705) 675-1151 x 3213 or email at jdragon@laurentienne.ca

**Jane Gaskell
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**James Heap
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**Deborah Berrill
Professor
School of Education and Professional Learning, Trent University**

**Serge Demers
Director
École des sciences de l'éducation, Université Laurentienne**

Dear Teacher,

You are invited to take part in a research study entitled “Teacher Preparation and Success in Ontario”. In this study, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), Brock University, Trent University, and Université Laurentienne are collaborating with the Ministry of Education to gather information that will help us to enhance teacher education programs in Ontario.

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2. To examine how teachers’ teacher education programs prepared them for the teaching profession.

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If you are willing to participate, please click once on the following link where you will find detailed information about the research.

<http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/surveys/surveyviewer2/index.php?surveyID=WJR4N>

You will then be connected to a short survey asking you to respond to questions about your teacher education program, your teaching experience, and your background (about 20 minutes). You will also receive an email with a link to the survey so that you may complete it at another time. At the end of the survey you will be asked about your willingness to participate in a follow-up telephone survey (about 20 minutes) and asked to provide a telephone number and most convenient times for contact.

This study has received approval from university ethics review committees and your school board. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. Moreover, you may decline to answer any questions if you wish and you may withdraw from the study at anytime without penalty or negative consequence.

All information gathered from the surveys will be kept completely confidential and will not be used to evaluate your work as a teacher or that of your colleagues. It will allow us to assess our own initial teacher education programs and the degree to which teachers feel suitably prepared as they begin their careers. All data will be assigned a code so that anonymity is guaranteed.

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