



## **INTRODUCING**

**The Ontario Federation of Independent Schools**

## **CHARITABLE TRUST**

The OFIS Charitable Trust seeks to improve the quality of education that is provided in Ontario's independent schools by providing financial assistance for the training of teachers and administrators who are employed or plan to be employed in schools that are not publicly funded.

## **Support the professional development of 21st Century Educators in our independent schools!**

Scholarship and bursary funds are available to applicants for tuition funding to attend approved programs and courses on the basis of financial need, compatibility with the applicant's existing education, and their background in the field of education. Applicants may be employed by a charitable, not-for-profit, or for-profit independent school, or if not currently employed by an independent school, must demonstrate intent to teach in or administer an independent school. However, application may be made only by an individual or on their behalf by a charitable educational institution.

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Dear Friends:

I have benefited immensely by attending an independent school in my high school years and chose to give back first as a volunteer and then as a full time employee. Our children are deeply grateful for their independent school education and the meaningful and lasting legacy this has provided them. During those early years as an independent school supporter I volunteered as a board member with the Ontario Association of Alternative and Independent Schools (OAAIS), years of seeking equality and government funding, which some of you may still recall. I later returned to the board, now under its new name of OFIS, ultimately as Vice-Chair and Chair/President. Over these years I saw a need for a tool that could benefit, bolster, and sustain independent schools, in the important work they do and the undeniable impact they have in our Ontario education system.

Most people I know involved in independent school education possess a special passion and sense of calling. This is especially true of committed teachers and administrators. They have a strong desire to use their gifts to make a difference in this their chosen educational field. But, as you are clearly aware, independent schools have special demands and skill set requirements in comparison to public education. How can we help teaching staff and administration as leaders in independent schools do the best job possible?

### **OFIS Trust**

101 Holiday Inn Dr., PO Box 29011,  
Cambridge, ON, N3C 0E6  
OFIS Charitable Trust # 83452 3680

### **Trustees**

Glen Woolner  
John DeGroot  
Annette Minutillo  
Barb Bierman *Ex Officio*

With the help of the late Ron Knechtel (2014 at 84 yrs), a true friend and a committed, generous, lifelong supporter of Christian independent education, we began to explore the possibilities. Some of us from the OFIS board had the pleasure to form a taskforce, working with Ron to explore, shape and ultimately bring the OFIS Charitable Trust into existence. Ron brought vast professional experience as a Chartered Accountant and a Certified Management Accountant, beginning with the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA), furthering his career with Ernst and Young, and in his retirement years, contributing much to the work of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC); providing an immeasurable service. Mission accomplished! Well...almost.

NOW donor support is needed so the OFIS Charitable Trust can begin its work ... to encourage and assist those as educational professionals, or aspiring to be, who feel this special calling to become involved, or better themselves, in independent school education as a chosen career. We want them to experience the financial encouragement and support needed, to help make it financially accessible, to help them become all that they can be by taking advantage of the special training opportunities that are available – but come with a cost. This will ensure that students benefit, which is what it's all about, and help independent schools improve, excel, and ultimately receive the recognition and respect due as an important thread in Ontario's educational tapestry. This is all in keeping with the OFIS board's Vision and Mission to provide STANDARD SETTING LEADERSHIP.

It is our pleasure to introduce to you the OFIS Charitable Trust and to invite you to make a generous contribution to the purpose of this trust ([see Donation Form](#)), or, as a person interested in a career, or career improvement as a teacher or administrator in the independent school sector, to submit an application for financial assistance ([see Scholarship and Bursary Application Form](#)).

We eagerly await your response.

Sincerely,



Glen Woolner,  
Chair of the OFIS TRUST Board  
Past President of OFIS

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