



**November 2021**

## 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!

**SEASONS GREETINGS** to fellow OFIS, OFIS Trust and Independent School supporters,

The OFIS Trust is a *form of mutual aid* that we can offer each other as we are trying to make every independent school all that they can be with high caliber, well-trained leaders. If we all contribute as we feel led and able, we can accomplish a lot. The existence of this fund is **even more critical in light of COVID**. *Tax receipts are available for all donations that qualify.*

#### [THE OFIS VISION](#)

*OFIS provides visible, standard-setting leadership to member independent schools that promotes excellence, justice, choice, and equal opportunity in education for all children.*

The **OFIS Vision** is ALSO WHAT THE OFIS TRUST IS ALL ABOUT! We want to do more, you can see the need, and while seeking your **SUPPORT**, we are also seeking new applicants. **ENCOURAGE** an aspiring teacher/administrator to apply for financial assistance in his/her effort to improve their skill set as a committed independent school educational leader. **THEY ARE WANTED!** We want to enable them to be faithful to their calling. **THE BEST TEACHERS/LEADERS ARE NEEDED AND IN DEMAND!** Agreed? Even more so with COVID-19. There is much to learn and help to give, on all levels.

We again hope for your generous commitment to The OFIS Charitable Trust this year. **Find out how you can make a donation that supports a qualifying student or school, and the fees paid for facilitating this education come back to OFIS when OFIS is the provider. And you get a tax receipt! HOW IS THAT FOR A WIN WIN? READ ON!\***

**UPDATE on OFIS:** Much has happened since our last appeal letter. As it has impacted all our lives, COVID-19 has impacted OFIS and increased the need for support to our member schools. OFIS has been instrumental in helping our member schools, with a huge learning curve, navigate the challenges of this ever-changing landscape. From all reports, our schools were able to end the 2020-21 school year on a high, with students completing all their work, adjusting well to largely on-line instruction, achieving excellent results, and able to graduate on time. Another feather in the cap for independent schools.

**OFIS Trust**  
291B Jane St.  
Toronto, ON M6S 3Z3  
OFIS Charitable Trust # 83452 3680

**Trustees**  
Glen Woolner  
John DeGroot  
Amanda Dervaitis *Ex Officio*

Amanda Dervaitis, our new Executive Director, has provided amazing leadership with seemingly boundless energy. The good fight for fair and equal treatment from government reminiscent of years past continues. OFIS is helping to lead a collaborative effort in this regard, to attain financial assistance for added wage support to hire additional teachers (Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy), funds for adapting to on-line education, and the additional resources needed to have students safely back in the classrooms meeting necessary protocols. The OFIS Board is proud of the work that has been done. But there is much more to learn and do on all levels, much leadership to give.

**The URGENCY of COVID demanded that OFIS offer numerous on-line supports** via workshops, webinars, and training courses to help our member schools be all that they could be under the circumstances. Many of these supports are included as one of the many benefits of OFIS membership, but others are offered at a fee (higher for non-member schools). ***Let me give you an example.***

\*The OFIS provided **Foundations for Independent School Operations in Ontario** winter session will take place January 17-21, 2022. In brief, this course is designed for new independent school leaders, be they from new schools, or moving into higher more qualified leadership positions in their current school. Participants who successfully fulfill all course requirements will receive a certificate of completion as they advance in their qualifications.

**Our OFIS TRUST mandate and challenge has a HUGE ROLL to play.** We want to make sure every deserving individual, passionate about service in the independent school sector, can make their dream come true, to establish a rewarding career, and continue to grow their ability to contribute to a SAFE, healthy learning environment. We want to remove barriers where they exist... **WE CAN SUCCEED WITH YOUR HELP.**

**PASS ON THE NEWS of The OFIS Charitable Trust** to other potential donors, as well as potential beneficiaries! Encourage a person or persons interested in a career, or career improvement, whether as a teacher or administrator in the independent school sector, to apply for assistance. The appropriate information can be found at the OFIS Trust link on the OFIS website [www.OFIS.ca](http://www.OFIS.ca).

**To make your donation** please use the *enclosed* Donation Form and mail your OFIS TRUST cheque directly in the envelope provided **or** make your donation On-Line through the *CanadaHelps* DONATE NOW button, also at the OFIS TRUST link on the OFIS website [www.OFIS.ca](http://www.OFIS.ca) (soon to be updated). Please note that all contributions mailed and postmarked on or before December 31, 2021 will be treated as 2021 contributions for tax receipt purposes. The same applies to on-line contributions. If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to contact me, Glen Woolner, Chair of the OFIS TRUST Board, by email at [glen.mar@rogers.com](mailto:glen.mar@rogers.com) or phone at 519-574-8100.

**We eagerly await your response and wish you and yours a Meaningful, Joyful, PEACE & HOPE filled Christmas as we share carefully with family and friends, and a SAFE and HAPPY entry into 2022.**



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

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