



November 2022

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 now that the grip of COVID 19 is loosening. I will explain.** *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. And while seeking your **SUPPORT**, we are also seeking new applicants. You can see the need as **more are applying**. **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 again has happened since our last appeal letter. As it has impacted all our lives, COVID-19 has impacted OFIS and increased the need for responsive support to our member schools. OFIS has been instrumental in helping our member schools 'turn on a dime', take on a huge learning curve, navigating the challenges of this ever-changing landscape. From all reports, our schools adapted, steadied the course and demonstrated the true value of independent schools with students completing all their work, adjusting well to on-line instruction where necessary and achieving excellent results, with the ability to graduate on time. No need to crow about all the investment provided to 'catch up'.

OFIS Trust

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

Trustees

Glen Woolner
John DeGroot
Amanda Dervaitis *Ex Officio*

Amanda Dervaitis, our now well entrenched Executive Director, has provided amazing leadership with seemingly boundless energy. The good fight, advocacy for fair and equal treatment from government reminiscent of years past continues. OFIS is helping to lead a collaborative effort in this regard. The OFIS Board is proud of the work that has and is being done. But there is much more to learn and do on all levels, much leadership to give. OFIS needs more valuable board members ...please recommend!

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. This continues. Many of these supports are included as one of the many benefits of OFIS membership, 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 is now part of the OFIS Principals Course Part 1.** It has been offered at different times in 2022 and the next winter session will begin January 30, 2023. 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 and prepare for the Principals Course Part 2 now under development and ready soon. The OFIS Trust has had 3 successful applicants for this program to date. ***'The course was fantastic! It's wonderful to have an organization that is invested in helping teachers in the independent school sector. Thank you OFIS Trust!' This is but one testimonial.

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 to continue to grow in 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.

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 (soon to be updated). Please note that all contributions mailed and postmarked on or before December 31, 2022 will be treated as 2022 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 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 2023.

Sincerely,



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

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