

**P021- Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers' Federation (O.S.S.T.F.) fonds
1920-1969 (predominant dates 1929-1950)
2.2 linear meters of textual records**

Administrative history: The Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers' Federation (O.S.S.T.F.) grew steadily from its inception in December of 1919 into a large and highly organized alliance. Beginning as a society to which teachers became members on a voluntary basis, it had as membership almost 95% of all Ontario secondary school teachers by the year 1944. With the Teaching Profession Act of 1944, the O.S.S.T.F. became formally recognized as one of the five affiliates of the Ontario Teachers' Federation. Since its beginnings, it has been composed of a Provincial office and district divisions, which today number 29. Concerning itself with a number of matters affecting Ontario teachers, the district and provincial committees manage and monitor issues of salary, superannuation, life insurance, certification, sick benefits and assistance for teachers in matters involving school boards. Amidst overarching societal change, the O.S.S.T.F. provides a structure within which Ontario teachers share their concerns and express a larger voice in education affairs.

Scope and content: The Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers' Federation (O.S.S.T.F.) fonds consists mostly of handwritten and typed correspondence, and also contains minutes, resolutions, bankbooks, cheque stubs, ledgers, reports, school curriculum outlines and news bulletins. Included as well are travel claims, salary schedules, membership lists and some copies of the federation magazine *The Bulletin* (1958-1968).

This fonds, documenting the labour movement within education, presents a comprehensive picture of O.S.S.T.F. affairs and organizing procedures from 1920-1968. Specifically, although not without exception, the records highlight O.S.S.T.F. activities in Districts 28 and 29, jurisdictions which encompass most of Northeastern Ontario. Many papers represent correspondence to and between the Provincial Executive, the District Secretaries and the membership at large. Meticulous accounts of membership totals and dues illustrate the constant drive for membership participation through the years, and the financial records illustrate the success of this drive. Some very lively correspondence written by the Provincial General Secretary and the Provincial Treasurer, both of whom served in these positions from 1924-1947, is testament to their enthusiasm and convictions. Researchers interested in the O.S.S.T.F. response to the loss of 600 teachers to the armed service during WWII, to the matter of child poverty, to the School Law Amendment Act of 1938, and to cases of professional difficulty will find the records rich in documentation.

Note: Immediate source of acquisition: No information available on the donation of the fonds.

Restrictions on access: restriction of access may apply to some records

Terms governing use and reproduction/publication : copyright regulations apply to the documents

Finding aids: The fonds is not processed. A [preliminary listing](#) done prior to its transfer to Laurentian University Archives is available.

General note: Custodial history: The fonds was donated to the Northern Ontario Labour Industrial Archives (NOLIA) prior to 1982, and later transferred to the Laurentian University Archives before 1995.

: previously RG 33 OSSTF