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ISSUE 6

Thank you for establishing your private account in the Members' Area of the Ontario College of Teachers' web site and for your interest in receiving breaking news and professional information from the College.

In this Issue:

- E-vote Now!
- Another Contest ... and You're Already Entered
- College Members Can Track Professional Learning Online
- Invitation to Serve on Professional Learning Committee
- Call for Nominations - 2003 CEA-Whitworth Award for Educational Research

E-vote Now!

The polls are open and the voting is easy.

You only have to click into the Members' Area of the College web site and click on your choices of candidates for the next Council of the Ontario College of Teachers.

Teachers get to elect the majority of members who sit on the College's Council – teachers elected by their peers hold 17 of the 31 positions on Council. The remaining 14 positions are held by public appointees.

There are 42 candidates running in the 17 elected positions of Council. Go online and get to know them by reading their profiles. Then, decide who you want to represent you over the next three years. Voting begins today, March 3, and ends at 11:59 p.m. on April 14th.

Encourage your colleagues to sign in to vote too! Every successful referral you make that results in a colleague setting up their own private account gives you an extra chance to win trips to Paris or Vancouver or a home office setup.

Please note, this election is entirely electronic. There will be no paper ballots. You must go online to cast your votes.

Don't delay. The composition of the next Council rests at your fingertips now at

http://www.oct.on.ca/en/Election/notice_E.asp.

Another Contest ... and You're Already Entered

Refer Your Friends and Get More Chances to Win

So you didn't win the free trip to London for opening your College Members' Area account before December 31. And now there's another contest with trips to Paris and Vancouver from Explorica, and a home office setup from Staples.

Don't despair. You've been automatically entered for your chance to win these prizes donated by advertisers in *Professionally Speaking/Pour parler profession*.

You can increase your chances to win by convincing your colleagues to open their own Members' Area accounts. Check out the Refer a Colleague feature on the new contest site. For every College member you refer who then sets up their account, you will receive another entry in the contest. You only get credit for being the first one to refer another member.

For more information, visit prizes or www.explorica.ca.

College Members Can Track Professional Learning Online

You can now check out your personalized Professional Learning (PL) Record online via our secure Members' Area on the College web site.

The PL Record is a statement of credits you have earned under the Professional Learning Program (PLP). The PL Record was made available online for the first time on February 27.

"We're pleased to be able to offer this additional service as part of the College's commitment to ensuring that our members have online access to their records and can communicate with the College easily," said Professional Affairs Co-ordinator Marg Aubé. "This is a cost-effective way to provide a convenient service to a large membership."

To view your Professional Learning Record, go to your private account in the Members' Area at www.oct.on.ca. At the same time, you will also be able to access your ballots for voting online in the upcoming Council elections.

The PL Record shows the start and end date of your current professional learning cycle and the core, elective and additional credits that you have earned. You can view an online guide entitled How To Read Your Professional Learning Record and a guide for following up with the College if your credits do not appear as expected.

Please allow at least 60 days for providers to send your course completion information to the College, and then allow some time for the results to be added to your Professional Learning Record.

If you have informed the College that you are retired, you will still have a PL Record but your status will be noted as Exempt – Retired. Any PLP credits you earn will be noted on your record.

If you find errors in your Professional Learning Record, please contact the College at 1-888-534- 2222, ext. 431 or e-mail at professionallearning@oct.on.ca .

Your PL Record is a confidential document, available only online and only to you. You can print it as an official College document by clicking on the Print This Page link.

If you have provided us with your e-mail address, the College will automatically notify you of any PLP credits or AQ courses that have been added to your file.

Invitation to Serve on the Professional Learning Committee

Members of the College are invited to submit their names as candidates for the member-at-large positions on the Professional Learning Committee.

The Committee is composed of four College Council members (two elected and two appointed), two members-at-large, and up to five members appointed by the Minister of Education. Members-at-large serve for the three years of the Council term. The first meeting of the newly constituted Committee will be in May, 2003.

The Committee meets monthly at the College offices in Toronto to approve Professional Learning Program providers and courses, and to consider reviews of providers and courses.

The Nomination Committee of the College Council will make recommendations to the College Council of appointments as members-at-large.

If you are interested in applying for one of the member-at-large positions, please send a copy of your resumé, including your College registration number and a one-page description of your experience in professional development.

The information may be e-mailed, mailed or faxed to:

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Call for Nominations

2003 CEA-Whitworth Award for Educational Research

Each year the Canadian Education Association (CEA) honours a person who has made a noteworthy contribution to educational research in our country.

Through this award, the CEA celebrates the important contribution of research in increasing our knowledge and understanding of Canadian education.

Consider nominating a candidate for the 2003 CEA-Whitworth Award for Educational Research. Information on the **nomination procedure and criteria** is available on the CEA Web site. Please ensure that the required information for each nomination is provided.

All nomination forms and supporting documentation should be returned to the CEA office by April 30, 2003. A sub-committee of the CEA Research Steering Committee has been appointed to review all nominations and make the final decision.

For more information, visit the the Canadian Education Association web site at **www.acea.ca**.