

Supporting Student Learning in a Pandemic: AEFO Collaborating with Government during this Exceptional and Unprecedented Situation

OTTAWA, March 31, 2020—Following today’s unveiling of phase 2 of the government’s distance learning plan by Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, AEFO announces it has already begun collaborating with the government and will continue to do so if necessary. Indeed, AEFO, like other teacher unions in the province, is part of the government’s new working group on continuous learning.

According to Rémi Sabourin, AEFO President: “The COVID-19 pandemic is forcing all of us to adapt to an exceptional and unprecedented situation. At this time, parents, guardians, employers, unions, and the government must work together to support students’ learning.”

AEFO remains highly conscious of the social economic and geographic disparities that could limit students’ distance learning.

“Our Franco-Ontarian families and teachers face a wide array of challenges: access to technological tools and the Internet or lack thereof; family environment; special needs students,” adds Rémi Sabourin. “The framework of distance learning will evolve as the situation unfolds. This is a temporary solution. We are well aware that there is no substitute for the direct contact between teacher and students.”

AEFO has about 12,000 members and represents French-language elementary and high school teachers in Ontario, from both Catholic and public school boards, as well as professional and support staff working in various French-language workplaces.

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