



Retired Teachers of Ontario
Les enseignantes et enseignants
retraités de l'Ontario

1968 - 2018



STO/ERO - RTO/ERO

Highlights

1966

- The roots of the RTO/ERO go back to October 1966, when the Ontario Teachers' Federation set up an interim committee of 10 superannuated teachers. Their mandate - look into the possibility of forming an organization for all superannuated teachers and to seek improvements in their pensions and allowances.
- In December 1966, the interim STO/ERO committee presented a brief to Ontario Minister of Education William Davis, requesting a recalculation of teacher pensions. Two days later, Davis announced that minimum pensions would be raised to \$1,200.



Marion Tyrrell

1967



- The Teaching Profession Act was amended, and the Ontario Teachers' Federation had the privilege of granting associate membership to superannuated teachers. This enabled those teachers to join OTF that way and, thereby, become members of STO/ERO.

1968

- The Superannuated Teachers of Ontario (STO) formed an organization to safeguard and promote the professional welfare of the 7,000 Superannuated Teachers of Ontario.
- The Superannuated Teachers of Ontario/ Les enseignantes et enseignants retraités de l'Ontario officially began on March 14-15, 1968, when its governing senate met for the first time in the second floor boardroom of the Ontario Public School Men Teachers' Federation in Toronto. The voting delegates were representatives of the five affiliates of the Ontario Teachers' Federation.

- In 1968 the first secretary-treasurer, Marion Tyrrell, was awarded \$500 for past services and an honorarium of \$150 a month. The title of executive director replaced that of secretary-treasurer in 1985.
- RTO/ERO's first newsletter was distributed in November 1968. It was a doubled-sided sheet.
- In December 1968, a committee was established to organize STO/ERO into geographic areas across Ontario, based on the provincial county board system. That resulted in 10 areas, which grew to 12 in 1970. In 1972, the province was reorganized into 21 subdivisions, which would be known as districts. The senate created the districts, which would each have at least three executive members.
- Between 1968 and 1969, STO/ERO met with Minister of Education William Davis seven times to discuss increasing the teachers' pensions.



1969

- In the early 1960s, the Teachers' Superannuation Commission (TSC) introduced a health plan for the use of retired teachers. With the introduction of OHIP, Health Services began in 1969 with an agreement between STO/ERO, the Superannuation Commission and the Co-Operative Health Services with deductions made by the Commission. With deductions made by the commission, pensioners paid \$2 per month. Those with a spouse paid \$4 per month, and a family paid \$6.50 per month.



1970

- A Travel Committee forms to act as an agent for the purchase of tours directed primarily at the market represented by STO teachers.
- Associate Membership was introduced.



1980

- STO/ERO served more than 15,000 members and operated with voluntary help, except for a part-time secretary-treasurer and an office assistant.



1971

- More than 12,000 persons (including dependents) received pensions from the Teachers' Superannuation Commission. Of those, approximately 8,000 were members of STO/ERO.
- The 90 factor was introduced, enabling teachers to retire when their age plus years of credit equaled ninety.

1973

- Previously, Senators were appointed according to their former affiliate membership, with the introduction of Districts, Senators are elected or appointed by each District.

1974

- Grants to the districts were \$200 per district.

1975

- STO/ERO, the Teachers' Superannuation Commission and the Ontario Teachers' Federation cooperated on a pre-retirement workshop program to counsel teachers who planned to retire in the next few years. The retirement counselling committee became a standing committee in 1978.

1982

- Bill 148, an amendment to the Teachers Superannuation Act, had pensions for those who retire after May 31, 1982 based on the 'best five years' but not for those who had retired prior to 1982.

1983

- The Project Overseas Committee was formed. From 1984 to 1998, it was a standing committee. Project Overseas was a joint endeavor between the Canadian Teachers' Federation and its members to give professional assistance to fellow teachers in developing countries.

1986

- 1986 STO was incorporated. The organization became known as the Superannuated Teachers of Ontario/Les enseignants retraités de l'Ontario, (STO/ERO). Johnson Insurance Limited was appointed as broker/consultant to represent STO/ERO in negotiations concerning the Group Health Insurance plans - Semi-Private Hospital, Extended Health Care and Dental. Confederation Life was the carrier.



- Membership increased by over 50 per cent, partially due to the reduction of the retirement factor from 90 to 85.
- Senate endorsed a proactive approach regarding teachers' pensions and Canada Pension Plan reform, as well as changes in the Ontario Drug Benefit program. The ad hoc Political Action Committee became a standing committee.

1987

- The STO/ERO Health Services Committee assumed responsibility for all STO/ERO insurance programs (previously held by the Superannuation Commission).

1988

- The average pension paid to RTO/ERO members was slightly over \$15,000 a year.



1990

- STO/ERO embarked upon a plan to expand its bilingual services. More francophone members were able to communicate with the office in French.

1991

- STO/ERO's newsletter was published in French for the first time.

1995

- Membership reached 30,000.



1996

- RTO/ERO established its first e-mail and website addresses. The Ontario College of Teachers was formed.

1997

- The STO/ERO Office created a new publication, District Updater, to provide concise, up-to-date information to key individuals at the organizational and district levels.
- Revenue from membership fees exceeded \$1 million.

1998

- The Ontario Teachers Superannuation Commission was renamed the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board.

1999

- RTO/ERO's head office was located at Federation House, 1260 Bay St. in Toronto, until the organization purchased and moved into 18 Spadina Rd. in 1999. Elizabeth Witmer, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, presided at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



2000

- A new funding formula replaced the annual district grant program. Twenty-five per cent of the membership fees received by RTO/ERO from fees were remitted to the districts.
- The RTO/ERO long-term care plan was developed and introduced to members.

2001

- After many years of lobbying by RTO/ERO, the Teachers' Superannuation Act is amended allowing those who retired prior to 1982 to have their pensions calculated on the 'best of five.'
- The 85 factor became permanent.
- The newsletter gained a new name - *Renaissance*.
- A new slogan was adopted:
Here for you now ... Here for your future.

2002

- New Associate Membership categories were added.
- The Members' Centre section of the RTO/ERO website was launched.

2003

- The first francophone district was formed - District 44, Région du ciel bleu.
- Membership topped 50,000 for the first time.

2004

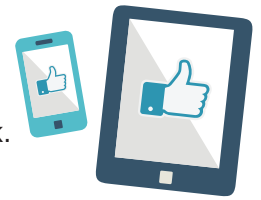
- OTF discontinued its Retirement Planning Workshops. RTO/ERO, through a subcommittee of the Member Services Committee, took over conducting the workshops.

2005

- A scholarship program was established to provide financial assistance to applicants who were pursuing a career in education in Canada.

2010

- RTO/ERO joined Facebook.



2011

- The RTO/ERO Foundation was established to increase the number of professional and support staff qualified and trained in geriatric care and support research and programs that improve the quality of life of seniors in Canada. That included an endowment fund to establish a chair of geriatrics at the University of Toronto.
- RTO/ERO formed its 48th district.

2013

- RTO/ERO membership reached 70,000.

2018

- 2018 RTO/ERO was incorporated under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, as a result of a two-year review of the organization's governance structure.
- RTO/ERO celebrates its 50th anniversary.



STO/ERO - RTO/ERO

Presidents

1968-69	Art McAdam	1993-94	William Sly
1969-71	Norman McLeod	1994-95	Eldred Cook
1971-73	Laura Cook	1995-96	Roland Bidal
1973-74	Murdoch McIver	1996-97	William Courtney
1974-75	Harry Redfern	1997-98	Muriel Hill
1975-76	Marie Duhaime	1998-99	James Baker
1976-77	Dave Dewar	1999-2000	Wayne Tompkins
1977-78	Weldon Abernethy	2000-01	Val Alcock
1978	Robert Hopkins	2001-02	Ron Stephen
1978-79	Gabrielle Levasseur	2002-03	Mickey Contini
1979-80	David Tough	2003-04	Beverley Polowy
1980-81	Margaret Drago	2004-05	Helen Biales
1981-82	Jack Eastaugh	2005-06	Arnold Hull
1982-83	Hazel Farr	2006-07	Ron Poste
1983-84	Mal Steele	2007-09	Brian Kenny
1984-85	Laura Sabourin	2009-10	Margaret Couture
1985-86	Lawson Orser	2010-11	Joanne Murphy
1986-87	Ruth Campbell	2011-12	Jim Sparrow
1987-88	Lenore Graham	2012-13	Leo Normandeau
1988-89	Alan Robb	2013-14	Norbert Boudreau
1989-90	Juliette Pilon	2014-15	June Szeman
1990-91	Lyle Hoskin	2015-16	Martin Higgs
1991-92	Mary Saad	2016-17	Martha Foster
1992-93	Mae Hill		

Executive Directors

1968-73	Marion Tyrell	1996-2000	Pascal LaRouche
1973-75	Dorothy Martin	2001-04	Terry Lynch
1975-84	Clare Perry	2004-15	Harold Brathwaite
1984-90	James Causley	2015-present	Jim Grieve
1991-95	William Jones		



Award Recipients

Founding Member Award Recipients

The RTO/ERO Founding Member Award is presented to an RTO/ERO member in recognition of outstanding voluntary contributions to the work of RTO/ERO at the provincial level.

1981 First awarded to:

Mrs. McLeod, widow of Norman McLeod, co-founder of STO/ERO

Arthur McAdam, co-founder of STO/ERO

Marion Tyrrell, first Secretary-Treasurer

J. R. Causley, Superannuation Commission

Herb Stewart, Travel Director

1982 David Dewar, District 24, Scarborough and East York

1983 Cora Bailey, District 36, Peterborough

1984 Clare Perry, Secretary-Treasurer of STO, 1975 - 1984

1985 Dr. Nora Hodgins, Chair Superannuation Committee

1986 Dorothy Martin, Secretary-Treasurer STO 1974-75

1987 Mal Steele, District 2, Thunder Bay

1991 Gordon Youngman, District 22 Etobicoke

John Kippen, District 34 York

1992 Jack Foote, District 23 North York

1994 Carm Whitmore, District 8 London, Middlesex

1995 Tom Tait, District 5, Cochrane, Temiskaming

1996 Josephine Stemerowicz, District 26 Kenora

1997 Wayne Tomkins, District 22

1998 Helene Legros, District 6, Parry Sound

2000 Hawley Cross, District 22, Etobicoke

2001 Kenneth Low, District 2, Thunder Bay

2002 David Hilton, District 12, Norfolk

2003 Margaret Harche, District 4, Sudbury,

2004 John Toswell, District 43, Nipissing.

2005 John Zangari, District 7, Windsor-Essex,

2006 Max Radiff, District 18, Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes

2007 George Meek, District 23, North York,

2009 Ron Edwards, District 43, Nipissing

2013 Bob Lamoureux, District 7 Windsor, Essex

2016 Helen Biales, District 7, Windsor-Essex

Distinguished Member Award Recipients

This award recognizes outstanding member contributions organizationally and at the district level.

- 2008** Margaret Durkin, District 28, Region of Durham
Bob Murphy, District 39, Peel
Jeanne Rutherford, District 22, Etobicoke
- 2009** June Farmer, District 47, Vancouver Island
Ray Johnson, District 36, Peterborough
Viateur Sincennes, District 45, EstaRio
- 2010** Irvine Dean, District 34, York Region
Patricia Farrar, District 10, Bruce/Grey, Dufferin
Grace Merchand, District 21, Renfrew
- 2011** Don Dorst, District 6, Parry Sound
Eleanor Stewart, District 19, Hastings and Prince Edward
Julie Champagne, District 44, Région du ciel bleu
- 2012** Douglas Martin, District 2, Thunder Bay
Dave Ross, District 26, Kenora (posthumously)
Jenny Ross, District 4 Sudbury
- 2013** Florence Kellor, District 9 Huron, Perth
Bill Menagh, District 16, Toronto
Moyra O'Pallie, District 3 Algoma
- 2014** Cliff Huber, District 2, Thunder Bay
Thérèse Caron, District 5, Cochrane, Temiskaming
Dick Duffin, District 34, York
- 2015** Daisie Gregory, District 17, Simcoe
Roger Lalonde, District 27, Ottawa- Carleton
Irwin Ruttle, District 20, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington
- 2016** Shirley Greenwood, District 10, Bruce/Grey, Dufferin
Robert McCarthy, District 38, Lambton
Fran Wren, District 41, Elgin
- 2017** Mary Ellen Lawless, District 23, North York
Helen Szydlowski, District 13, Hamilton-Wentworth, Haldimand

RTO/ERO Districts

<i>Number</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Year of Formation</i>
1	Rainy River & Atikokan	1975
2	Thunder Bay	1972
3	Algoma	1972
4	Sudbury & Manitoulin	1972
5	Cochrane & Temiskaming	1972
6	Parry Sound	2007
7	Windsor Essex	1985
8	London, Middlesex	1986
9	Huron, Perth	1972
10	Bruce Grey & Dufferin	1972
11	Waterloo	1981
12	Norfolk	1989
13	Hamilton-Wentworth & Haldimand	1972
14	Niagara	1986
15	Halton	1986
16	Toronto	1972
17	Simcoe	1985
18	Haliburton Kawartha Lakes	2007
19	Hastings & Prince Edward	1976
20	Frontenac Lennox & Addington	2011
21	Renfrew	1978
22	Etobicoke and York	1973
23	North York	1973
24	24 Scarborough & East York	1973
25	Stormont Dundas Glengarry	1974
26	Kenora	1975

27	Ottawa-Carleton	1984
28	Region of Durham	1976
29	Lanark	1979
30	Northumberland	1980
31	Wellington	1981
32	Prescott-Russell	1984
33	Chatham-Kent	1985
34	York Region	1985
35	Dryden & Red Lake	1986
36	Peterborough	1986
37	Oxford	1990
38	Lambton 1986	1986
39	Peel	1986
40	Brant	1989
41	Elgin	1989
42	Mainland British Columbia	1982
43	Nipissing	2003
44	Region du ciel bleu	2003
45	EstaRiO	2007
46	Muskoka	2007
47	Vancouver Island	2007
48	Leeds and Grenville	2011

*The 50th Anniversary Committee was formed in 2015
to plan for celebrations in 2018.*

David Kendall, Chair, D20 Frontenac Lennox & Addington

Maureen Capotosto, D23 North York

Caroll Carkner, D32 Prescott-Russell

Paul Devlin, D34 York Region

Walt Duncan, D42 Mainland British Columbia

Gary Fick, D24 Scarborough & East York

Martha Foster, D41 Elgin

Gord Hough, D48 Leeds and Grenville

Randy Kushnier, D2 Thunder Bay

June Szeman, D40 Brant

Helen Szydlowski, D13 Hamilton-Wentworth & Haldimand

Heather Wilson-Boast, D37 Oxford