



November 2020

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 in light of COVID. *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.

THIS IS ALSO WHAT THE OFIS TRUST IS ALL ABOUT! We want to do more, you can see the need, and while seeking your SUPPORT, we are also seeking new applicants. 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. We want 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.

UPDATE on OFIS: Much has happened since our last appeal letter, December last year, Amanda Dervaitis became the new Executive Directory of OFIS, replacing Barbara Bierman who left OFIS suddenly earlier in the year. Amanda was already a valuable board member, and when Barb left, she jumped in without hesitation to help keep OFIS functioning. She helped with the board's search for a new ED and then decided to apply herself. After careful consideration of numerous well-qualified applicants, the Board chose Amanda. As we all know, it was not long until COVID-19 suddenly appeared on the scene impacting us all.

OFIS Trust

101 Holiday Inn Dr., PO Box 29011,
Cambridge, ON, N3C 0E6
OFIS Charitable Trust # 83452 3680

Trustees

Glen Woolner
John DeGroot
Amanda Dervaitis *Ex Officio*

With Amanda's help, OFIS and our member schools collaborated, and with expert assistance, following March Break, schools were largely able to land on their feet with students safely learning on-line (unlike the public system). This was a feather in the cap of independent schools. It was a huge learning curve with much hard work, but to our knowledge, most of our member school students were able to finish their year, get their well-earned report cards, and graduate. With a good fight for fair and equal treatment from government reminiscent of years past, OFIS is helping to lead a collaborative effort to attain financial assistance for added wage support to hire additional teachers (Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy), funds for adapting to on-line education, and the additional resources needed to have students safely back into classrooms meeting necessary protocols. The OFIS Board is proud of the work that was done. But there is much more to learn and do on all levels and much leadership to give.

Our OFIS TRUST mandate is to make sure every deserving individual, passionate about service in the independent school sector, can make their dream come true, establish a rewarding career, and continue to grow their ability to contribute to a SAFE, healthy learning environment. We want to remove barriers where they exist... **WITH YOUR HELP.**

Please 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 submit an application for financial assistance. The appropriate information and forms 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. Please note that all contributions mailed and postmarked on or before December 31, 2020 will be treated as 2020 contributions for tax receipt purposes. The same applies to on-line contributions completed before the calendar year end. If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to contact 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 2021.

Sincerely,



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

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