

## ETFO responds to Cabinet shuffle

**For Immediate Release – June 6, 2024**

TORONTO, ON - The following is a statement from the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) on today's Cabinet shuffle:

"ETFO welcomes Todd Smith as the new Minister of Education. We look forward to working collaboratively to rebuild and strengthen our public education system after several challenging years of budget cuts and policies that have not prioritized the best interests of Ontario's students and education workers.

Under Education Minister Stephen Lecce, our public education system has faced significant financial constraints, resulting in increased violence, insufficient supports for students, and increased pressure on both students and educators. These challenges hinder our members' ability to provide the high-quality education that every student deserves.

ETFO stands ready to work with Minister Smith after six years of being misled, dismissed, and undervalued by Minister Lecce. The needs and interests of students and our 83,000 members must be placed at the forefront of all decision-making.

We have reservations, given the Ford government's track record on public education and privatization agenda, but believe that Minister Smith should be given an opportunity to demonstrate a different approach. We expect new leadership to bring a fresh perspective and a renewed commitment to investing in our schools. We remain focused, as always, on defending public education so that every student has access to the resources they need to succeed.

We look forward to a constructive and productive relationship with Minister Smith – one built on, what we hope is, a shared commitment to excellence in public education."

[ETFO](#) represents approximately 83,000 members, including public elementary teachers, occasional teachers, designated early childhood educators, education support personnel, and professional support personnel. Visit [BuildingBetterSchools.ca](https://www.buildingbetterschools.ca).

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