

WELCOME TO THE TEACHING SECTOR HUB!

Panel Members:

Linda Genesi-Williams, Ontario College of Teachers, Manager – Evaluations Services

Monica Scorza, Toronto District School Board, Secondary Staffing Officer

Greg Yarrow, Toronto Training Board, Executive Director

Abdi Unis, L.A.S.I Worldskills, Coordinator Internationally Trained Teachers Project

Bob Fisher, Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, Executive Assistant

Facilitator:

Kim Martens, Martens Consulting Services, Consultant

Instructions to participants: (if Facilitator provides)

Information and points put forth by panel members:

Linda – Ontario College of Teachers since 1997.

Prior Ministry of Education in charge of Licencing of teachers.

In Ontario to be a classroom teacher and membership with the college is a must..

3500 applications from teachers certified outside of Ontario from 97 countries.

The credential assessment:

Undergraduate university from acceptable university directly to the college

1 year program in Teacher Certification

Canadian citizen/landed immigrant or work visa

Available – application guide to college

Assessment takes 4-6 weeks.

Monica – TDSB – Employment opportunities

TDSB – 250,000 students
Application process – available
Five adult day school programs, education programs, bridging
Family studies, Tech, French, Special Education – need in these areas
Applications by Jan 30th of the year

Bob Fisher – Teacher Federation

Umbrella organization representative all teachers.
Also representatives- social workers, child youth worker, teacher's aid/assistant
Provide professional support to teachers who are members of the college
Assist potential members in the accreditation process and facilitating dialogue with the college.

Abdi

Five years working with international trained teachers in Ottawa region
Research recommends four major need areas:
Linguistic
Academic
Social
Cultural

For children/students
Staff has to be reflective of students within the school system
Language for internationally trained teachers – professional development
Learn the culture of the school environment here in Canada
Canada needs to make changes as to how teachers are trained and certified.

Greg Yarrow - TTB

Bridging program for internationally trained teachers
Presentation of a proposal
Collaboration with Skills for Change
Highlighting the need to address a shortage for teachers.
Address Labour market effectiveness
Goals: Provide clear and accessible information to ITT's etc (overhead)
Job search supports for ITT's in association with Skills for Change
Improve community supports, mechanisms including settlement; job readiness, transportation, financial assistance
This program has been announced but contract are pending.

Discussion Questions (Group)

What have you heard that excited you?
What have you learnt?
What questions you have?

Page 8 in the application booklet details all the requirements for application to be certified by the college.

Why will you not accept transcripts from applicants?

1. Afghanistan & Somalia are the only two countries where processes are in place to accommodate potential candidates.

It is necessary to be certified to be part of Bridge Program?

2. No, but help in certification.

Documents can be issued in the language of the country. Translation services are available

Concern around retention of newly certified teachers.

Can private schools hire uncertified teachers?

3. Yes, they can but it is not converted to a provincial certification – the time taught in private schools is void.

Interim teaching certification is issued and converted to a full certification after one year teaching.

Teaching in the Board that is staffed by non-certified teachers – hours will only be counted if it is a credit course.

There is a 6 years window to gain certification for ITT's

Adult Education – All credit with certified teachers

Continuing education – credit-certified
non-credit – non certified

Expired letter of standing (Ministry document prior to formation to college) 6 year expiration date

To be re-instated contact Client Services department of the college at ext 330 to enquire about being re-instated.

Bridging program start date pending and it is an 18 month pilot program

This is one "Bridging Program" venture the Ministry is launching but the multimedia program is different from that of ITT's

Permit/certification to teach in hours?

4. No, tutoring businesses are not credited for hours towards teacher certification. Suggest contacting city for business permits, zoning, insurance, etc.

Certification of French teachers.

5. If certification in French – French Board – Elementary board
6. English Board – English certification.
7. In secondary – English/French certification.

Questions, with corresponding answers, asked by IEP participants:

Are other options such as on-line training courses offered to students?

8. In Ontario faculty of Education requires teachers to take additional Professional Development Courses to improve and increase their salary.
9. The College is not currently offering on-line courses for non-certified students. Distance education is not accepted for evaluation purposes due to problems with monitoring.

Why will you not accept transcripts directly from the applicant?

10. Official documentation means that the documents are issued directly from institution to institution.

Is it necessary to be certified to qualify for the Bridging Program? If so, what are the steps?

11. No, it is not necessary to be certified to qualify for the Bridging Program. It is a preparation program to help you to get certified.

What are the steps for certification?

12. The 21 book outlines the steps needed to be certified. Page 8 – summary of steps and documentation required. All pieces need to be in place before the file will be evaluated.

Can your documents be issued in another language?

13. The language of the documents will be in the language of the country. The individual is required to have it translated.

How long will it be before I hear back about my application?

14. It will take a minimum of 4-6 weeks. You will hear one of the following:
15. Certificate
16. Letter indicating the steps you need to take to become certified

17. Letter stating that you need to provide additional information

The bridging program – What does it do?

18. The bridging program is in addition to the process. It provides the following: planning, counseling and support. The purpose is to enhance your chances of getting into your profession.

How important is English?

19. The standards that they look for are very high. Communication /English skills are very important. The level of TOEFL is up to 500/600? Check.

Can you hire from Private Schools?

20. Demonstration of 1 year of experience in a school in Ontario /Canada. (check)
21. The school must be recognized.
22. Letter of Permission
23. This is issued for a one year time frame. The school must go to the Ministry to obtain it. This experience is not used as part of your credentials.

Can you hire without certification?

24. If they cannot find a suitable certified applicant, they can hire and apply for a Letter of Permission for someone without certification.
25. Some examples of courses which they have had to do this in the past: Auto mechanics, French, Technology.
26. If a curriculum credit course, it can be counted. You need to check with the board to find out if it's a credit course.

How long do you have to gain your Ontario experience?

27. 6 years

Can I teach in an Adult Education Program?

28. This is for students completing their secondary school. The teacher's are certified. To teach credit courses you need to be certified, the non-credit courses you don't need to be certified.

What can I do if I have an expired Letter of Standing?

29. You can re-apply to the college. This is a Ministry Letter expired after 6 years of when it was issued.

When does the Bridging Program start?

30. The proposal is still in process. It is projected as an 18 month pilot. The experience is very beneficial for new Canadians.

What is the relationship between MTCU and the Bridging Program? Is it necessary to be certified to join the program?

31. The Ministry has many bridging programs. This is only one of these programs. Certification will need to be checked out with the school.

Can I teach from my home? Does this require certification?

32. Check with the City of Toronto regarding zoning bylaws. Business insurance is highly recommended.

Which language of Teaching Certificate do I need?

33. A French Certificate for French board and English Certificate for English board.

Can I teach in the colleges without certification?

34. Yes, the MTCU does not have a set criteria /certification for teaching in this setting.