

**P021 Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, Districts of Northeastern Ontario fonds**  
**1920-1969 [Predominant dates 1929-1950]**  
**2.2 m textual records**

**Administrative history:** The Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) was founded in Toronto on December 30, 1919. The federation was formed to address social issues, and to defend the rights of female teachers. District 12 of OSSTF, was comprised of numerous locals from across Northeastern Ontario and represented the interests of educators in that district. In 1958, with the redistribution of boundaries within the provincial level of OSSTF, District 12 was subdivided into Districts 28 and 29. The general organizational structure of the federation includes a central provincial federation, district federations, and locals. According to the constitution, the overall objectives of the OSSTF include: discussion and promotion of education in Ontario, raising the status of the teaching profession, ensuring a professional working condition, a voice for teachers provincially and locally with regard to education, and promoting a standard of professional etiquette for the teaching profession. Annual fees paid by the members of OSSTF provide sick benefit insurance, a superannuation fund, a benevolent fund, and group insurance.

By June of 1925, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation was recognized as a corporate body. Through the years, OSSTF has been an influential force in Ontario, with regard to establishing standards in teaching that began with the Teacher's Board of Reference Act of 1938. OSSTF is also one of five affiliated federations that formed the Ontario Teachers' Federation through the Teaching Profession Act in 1944, that established teaching as a legally recognized profession in Ontario. Today, OSSTF is the leader in educational research among education groups in North America, and reports on public education. OSSTF is also a leader in collective bargaining, and represents the interests of teachers and other education workers. Currently, the federation bargains for over one hundred and fifty collective agreements.

**Scope and content:** This fonds consists of records for the Northeastern District of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation. These records include their Constitution, minutes, general correspondence, financial records, reports, pamphlets, agendas and mailing lists. The documents are directly related to the organization of the Northeastern Districts of OSSTF, and the involvement of the Northeastern Districts at the provincial level of OSSTF.

There are a number of topics that would be of particular interest to researchers. These areas of interest include the efforts of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation with regard to: the labour movement in education, the issues of female teachers working in Northeastern Ontario, the campaign to assist the Saskatchewan school boards during the depression, the loss of teachers to the armed services in World War II and the subsequent establishment of the War Casualty Fund, child poverty, and the history of professional relationships within Northeastern Ontario school boards.

**Note: Immediate source of acquisition:** No information is available regarding the acquisition of this fonds.

**: Reproduction/publication:** The Copyright Act regulations apply

**: Finding aids:** A preliminary listing is available at Laurentian University Archives.