



COMMUNICATION
August 25, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Whether you were teaching during the summer session or enjoying some well-deserved time off, I hope that you and your families were able to enjoy some rest and relaxation.

From the Ministry of Education's perspective, this academic year is being organized in a much more normal fashion, although many of the challenges and concerns of the pandemic are still present. Communication about the return to school was sent by the Ministry on Monday, while COVID directives remain relatively unchanged since mid-May. On our end at PTU, we will continue to seek clarity on these directives for you from QPAT, the LBPSB or other provincial agencies throughout the year should any changes arise.

Here are a few updates to start the academic year:

The PTU Office

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with particular concerns and we will do everything we can to get the answers to you as soon as possible. As you can imagine, the volume of calls, emails and meetings that we are responsible for means that there may be delays in responding, but we will do everything we can to get back to each of you in a timely manner.

Please note the following:

- As you know, we moved to a digital phone system last year. If a call is already being answered when you try to call, you will be greeted with an automated message which will prompt you for an extension number. This will transfer you directly to the appropriate PTU professional. Should we be temporarily unavailable on another call or in a meeting, you may leave voicemails directly with the person you are trying to reach without needing to use the general voicemail.
- To help answer your questions as efficiently as possible and avoid duplication of work, please only direct your call to the PTU professional in charge of your dossier.
- Our dossier descriptions and extensions are:
 - Matt Wilson (extension 1): Health and Safety, pandemic-related concerns, political questions, media requests, liaison to QPAT.
 - Ann Granger (extension 2): Elementary and Secondary staffing, contracts, leaves of absence, retirement, etc.
 - Pasquale Machado (extension 3): Continuing Education staffing, contracts, leaves of absences, etc. as well as the parental rights dossier.
- The @pearsonteachersunion domain will be deactivated by December 2022 as we complete our migration to @ptusep. Most teachers are already reaching out to us either via our @lbpearson.ca or our @ptusep.com email addresses, but please update your contact details for us if you are still using our old domain.

PTU Delegates

As you know, every year schools elect their PTU delegates from amongst the teaching staff. A simple list of the roles of the PTU Delegate can be found [here](#). The primary role of the delegate is to act as the liaison between us in the PTU office and teachers in the classroom. Last year's senior delegate will be receiving the annual Info Sheet in the coming days. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions about the position or the process of selecting your delegates.

If your school or centre has already selected your delegates for this year, please reach out to Sonia Dumont (sdumont@ptusep.com or s.dumont@lbpearson.ca) so that we can begin updating our lists.

Back-to-School Plan 2022-2023

The following details were shared in formal communications from the Ministry of Education on Monday, August 22. You may read the full communication from the MEQ [here](#) (available in French only).

- Procedural masks are no longer mandatory for staff or students, although they are still available should teachers choose to wear one.
- Social distancing or reduced group sizes are no longer obligatory in classrooms, gymnasiums or during extracurricular activities.
- A set of rapid tests will again be provided to all students at the start of the academic year, but this distribution will not be regularly repeated.
- Rapid tests are still available in schools and centres for staff and students who present symptoms during the day. Weekly data on the number of these tests being used, as well as on the general student absenteeism portrait, will be collected by *Santé Publique*.
- The weekly update of the Ministry directives on COVID has ceased. Instead, a more general page on [specific directives in the Education network](#) will be updated as needed.
- In the absence of these weekly updates, clarity is being sought by our provincial partners about how salaries will be paid should teachers need to isolate because of a positive COVID diagnosis.
- In the Youth Sector, we return to three terms of evaluation and the usual 20%-20%-60% term weighting. Ministry exams will again take place, although with the same reduced weighting as last year. Also, the MEQ's orientation for prioritizing essential learning is still in place for 2022-2023. [You may read more about this orientation here.](#)
- Some good news: with the ending of the state of emergency, the ministerial decrees that modified parts of our collective agreement are no longer in effect.
- As always, further communication will follow if further directives are shared or if these current directives are modified.

DALF Courses and Examination

For teachers who are seeking to be qualified in a French category, registration for the November examination is now available. You may find all necessary information [here](#).

New President at the Canadian Teachers' Federation

We would like to congratulate former PTU President and current QPAT President Heidi Yetman on her election as President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) during their annual general meeting over the summer. Heidi will complete her term as QPAT President during the 2022-2023 academic year before beginning her new duties with CTF in the spring. An election for a new QPAT President will take place in their usual timeline in March 2023. [You may read the full press release from the CTF here](#).

As always, do not hesitate to contact us at the PTU Office with any questions or concerns. We wish you a very successful 2022-2023 academic year!

All the very best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Wilson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matt Wilson
PTU President