

November 16, 2018  
D/BU #58/2018-2019



## OCT Professional Advisory “Supporting Students’ Mental Health”

To: Presidents and All Members  
From: Brad Bennett, Associate General Secretary – Protective Services

### For Information

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) released the [Professional Advisory “Supporting Students’ Mental Health”](#), Ontario Certified Teacher Members are required to know this advisory and its contents.

It is available online at <https://www.oct.ca/resources/advisories/mental-health> .

While this Professional Advisory attempts to promote the mental health of students, members should be cautious about directions contained in this advisory, which could be perceived as boundary issues. OSSTF/FEESO members who are OCT members should not be diagnosing or proposing treatments to students. It is their responsibility to maintain a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment, which includes working to avoid stigmatizing mental health and working towards promoting wellness.

Members should familiarize themselves with employer protocols around mental health and reporting. Any concerns should be directed towards administration, and other authorities where appropriate (i.e. Children’s Aid). Members should never discuss their own mental health with students.

If you require further information, please contact Jessica Burnie at [jessica.burnie@osstf.ca](mailto:jessica.burnie@osstf.ca).

BF/jj cope 343  
DBU - 58-OCT Professional Advisory.

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