

FAXAGENDA

ONTARIO ENGLISH
**Catholic
Teachers**
ASSOCIATION

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RE-CERTIFICATION **IS DEAD**

In an Open Letter to Ontario teachers dated today, December 19, 2003, Education Minister Gerard Kennedy confirmed that his government will cancel re-certification, the controversial teacher testing program brought in by the former Conservative government.

The McGuinty government will introduce legislation in the spring 2004 session of the provincial parliament, Gerard Kennedy says in the letter. The minister says he has, "already written to the College of Teachers to advise them of our intentions. If approved by the Legislature, the Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996 will be amended to remove the requirement for teachers to complete 14 courses every five years to maintain their certificate of qualification and registration and their membership in the College," he says.

During a meeting with the Minister yesterday, December 18, OECTA president Donna Marie Kennedy urged him to clarify statements made in the throne speech. "Minister Kennedy has made it plain and asked us to convey the message to all teachers that re-certification is dead," says Donna Marie Kennedy. "This ushers in a new era of cooperation between teachers and government. We wish him a very merry Christmas."