



For Immediate Release, April 2024

The Ontario Association for Counselling and Attendance Services (OACAS).
70th Anniversary Celebration
Blue Mountain, Collingwood, ON
May 22nd to May 24th, 2024

The OACAS is excited to announce that it will be celebrating its **70th Anniversary**, having been established in 1954. Opening celebrations will kick off at **1 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024**. The three-day Annual Spring Conference and Anniversary celebration will be held at Blue Mountain Resort in Collingwood, Ontario.

The OACAS will celebrate the dedication, commitment, advocacy, and continued support of Attendance Counsellors across Ontario. OACAS Alumni and association friends are invited to help celebrate this significant milestone. The members before us laid the foundation for the vibrant and thriving association that the OACAS is today, creating its legacy of 70 years of professionalism.

The Association is a non-profit advocacy group with executive members who are elected volunteers from every region of the province. It works directly in the field of compulsory school attendance as outlined in the Education Act and the Ministry's Enrolment Register Instructions.

OACAS' mandate is to improve student success while fostering each student's mental health and well-being. It provides Attendance Counsellors with tools, strategies, collegial support, and professional development opportunities while they support students, bridging the gap between home, school, and community.

Conference Chair and OACAS Vice President Tammy Peplinski noted, "Too many families are struggling. We need to rethink how we can meet the needs of our students and find ways to re-engage them. As Attendance Counsellors, we have the flexibility to meet students and families where they are at and build from there. This conference is an opportunity for us to come together, network, and learn about what is happening in other areas of the province." The OACAS hopes the media will celebrate with us at the opening ceremonies and kick off our Attendance Awareness Campaign. Help spread the word and support student well-being and engagement in education across Ontario!

Thank you to all for your support of the OACAS!

OACAS Executive Members: Erin Fitzgerald, Tammy Peplinski, Leila Buchanan, Michelle Cleave, Tammy Lalonde, Jennifer Johnston, Beth Clark, Nicky DiRito, Tyler Bragg, Shannon Brown, Nadia LaSelva, Amanda Lanthier, Nicky Trotter, Jordan Minns and Louise Mulder

For more information about our 70th Celebration event, please contact Erin Fitzgerald, President of the OACAS, at president@oacas.ca or visit our website at www.oacas.ca

Every school day counts!