

What Is OCTE?

OCTE or the Ontario Council for Technology Education is a group that advocates for technology teachers in Ontario, both Secondary and Elementary. They hold a conference in May of each year that is attended by more than 500 teachers of technology.

The focus of each OCTE conference is most often safety in the classroom. The theme for 2016 was Practicing Safe Tech. Most of the three days of the conference are filled with breakout sessions with topics of interest to every technology teacher - from Hairstyling and Aesthetics, Hospitality and Tourism, to Manufacturing, Construction, and Communications Technology. Examples of this year's sessions were Brainstorming for the Take Tech Provincial Campaign, Safety Based projects for Construction and Manufacturing Tech., TECO's Tech Ed Pathway Development - re-visioning of Technological Education teacher preparation programs, Department Heads Workshop, Ministry of Education SHSM initiatives, and Why Metal 3D Printing Will Change the World, to name just a few.

OCTE has met with OCT regarding the two year teachers' certification programs and how they will affect technological education. They have worked with the Ministry, OTF and the College of Teachers on regulation 298 changes and the changes and updates in certifications and qualifications for technological education programs. They have collaborated with the Ministries of Education and Labour to enhance and improve their classroom safety resources and OCTE is currently in the process of completing the newly designed OCTElab SAFEdocs web site that is a valuable resource of safety-based projects and lesson plans for all areas of technology. They are currently canvassing their members for lead writers and writers for best practices based on student centered learning.

OCTE continues to expand its mandate while looking out for the best interests of Tech teachers in Ontario. They work hard to make sure that Technological Education in the Province of Ontario is second to none. OCTE is an organization that every Tech teacher should be encouraged by school boards to become members of and participate in.