

B. HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE

On October 3, 1964 the Christian Teachers Association, now OCSTA, established a Credentials Committee that was mandated to establish criteria for awarding what was then called a Christian Teacher's Certificate to qualified candidates. In order to enhance the reputation of the certificate, OCSTA sought and received the endorsement of the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools. This endorsement meant that the OACS appoints several members to represent the OACS on the committee. The decision by the OACS signified the beginning of the certificate on December 21, 1964.

The Credentials Committee held its first meeting on March 6, 1965. At the next official meeting on May 7, 1966 the committee established the criteria for the certificate. An official application form and the criteria for the certificate were endorsed by the boards of the OCSTA and the OACS and were presented to the Credentials Committee on September 13, 1968.

In order to receive a Christian School Teacher's Certificate, during the years 1968-1977, the applicant had to meet one of the following criteria:

1. Be a graduate of a Christian teachers' college with one year of experience in a National Union of Christian Schools (NUCS), now Christian Schools International (CSI), affiliated school. The application had to be endorsed by the principal and the OACS director of education.
2. Be a graduate of a public teachers' college with extra courses in Philosophy of Education and Educational Psychology and the endorsements as in (i).
3. Be a graduate of a Dutch Christian teachers' college with two years of experience in a NUCS affiliated school and the additional courses as named in (ii) and the endorsements as in (i).
4. Be a college graduate with a degree, successful completion of courses in Philosophy of Education and Educational Psychology, three years of successful teaching in a NUCS affiliated school and the endorsements as in (i).

Major changes to these criteria were made by September 1, 1977 and these were in effect until August 31, 1981. During this period (1977-1981) the Credentials Committee allowed an applicant who was unable to meet the academic requirements to:

1. Submit a research paper in either Philosophy of Education or Educational Psychology with the usual endorsements OR
2. Show evidence that the applicant had obtained at least six SPICE (Summer Program In Christian Education) credits. Of these six credits, three could be from pre-1975.

Between August 31, 1982 and August 31, 1986 additional variances to the original requirements for the CSTC were granted. The variances included:

1. The possibility for teachers who worked in the OACS schools prior to August 31, 1982 to appeal to the rules in place prior to that date.
2. Teachers coming into the system as of September 1, 1982 were subject to the rules in place on that date.

3. Teachers were allowed to “catch up” to the requirements for the CSTC during the period August 31, 1982 to August 31, 1986.
4. On November 1, 1986 the so-called “transition period” allowing teachers to “catch up” was closed.

In November 1986 a number of modifications in the requirements for a CSTC were made. They included the following:

1. An applicant must have a college or university degree (150 Hours credit) plus two years of experience in a Christian school.
2. The requirements to have six courses from among 5 categories of courses plus one additional course was made. The requirement to have one course from category III was dropped.
3. An applicant no longer needed to submit a record of employment from the school’s principal.

In March 1993 further amendments were made. An applicant’s degree no longer needed to have 150 instructional hours and the number of required courses was reduced to five courses in four areas of study.

In June 1998 the required number of courses was changed from five (5) to four (4). The Canadian Law requirement (Area of Study IV) was revised to a Christian worldview course. The two year teaching requirement was re-instated resulting in an “interim” and “regular” certificate.

C. MANDATE OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Credentials Committee is an OCSTA committee. It consists of four OCSTA and two OACS representatives. It is the task of the committee to evaluate the credentials of teachers applying for the Christian School Teacher’s Certificate (CSTC). The committee also evaluates a teacher’s credentials for category placement.

The Committee meets at least three times per year to review applications. Once an application has been approved, the OCSTA office prepares the certificate, obtains the signatures of the OCSTA and OACS Board chairpersons and forwards it to the applicant.