

***Leading Public Education***

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For Immediate Release

**OPSOA announces Tony Pontes as new president for 2010-11**  
***Peel board's director of education assumes role Sept. 1***

Members of the Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association (OPSOA) have elected Tony Pontes, director of education for the Peel District School Board, as their 2010-11 president. Pontes assumes duties as president on Sept. 1, 2010.



"I'm honoured to serve as president of OPSOA—an organization that plays a vital role in being a champion for public education," says Pontes. "This year, we will continue to support and provide professional learning opportunities for all public supervisory officers in Ontario to develop strong relationships between students and the communities we serve."

Pontes assumed the role of director of education for the Peel board, Canada's second largest and one of North America's fastest-growing public school systems, on March 1, 2010. With 150,000 students, 235 schools, over 19,000 employees and a budget of over 1.3 billion dollars, the Peel board is one of the most significant and successful organizations in the Greater Toronto Area.

As a 32-year employee with Peel, Pontes brings a network of positive relationships, extensive experience in education, and optimistic and inspiring leadership to the role of OPSOA president.

Pontes began his career in 1978 as a teacher of mathematics and woodworking at the Peel board's JA Turner Secondary School (now part of Turner Fenton Secondary School). After time as a teacher, department head and vice-principal, he became principal of Chinguacousy Secondary School and then Mayfield Secondary School.

In 2000, Pontes' leadership skills were acknowledged by his appointment as superintendent of education. He has served as both an elementary and secondary superintendent—experience that provides deep understanding of the needs of all Peel schools. In 2009, Pontes became superintendent of staff development and school support services with system responsibilities for leadership and staff development, student discipline, registration, custody and immigration-related matters.

Known as an optimistic and inspiring leader, Pontes understands what it is like to be a learner and a leader. He has a genuine belief in recognizing people at all levels of the organization, and in nurturing collaborative team building and communication. Notes Pontes, "As educators, we have a responsibility to ensure all students, staff and community members feel welcomed and respected, and that they are supported in learning and working together."

In addition to serving on a number of local and provincial committees, Pontes has been a member of OPSOA since 2000 and has represented the Central Region of Ontario on the OPSOA Board of Directors during 2008-09. Pontes also served as OPSOA's president-elect during 2009-10. He was elected this year's president at OPSOA's annual conference in Toronto on April 23, 2010.

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