



Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE



CCRTC NEWS FALL 2024

"...tell the next generation..."

PSALM 78:4



from the principal

CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER



DIPLOMA OF EDUCATION - YEAR 1 AND 2



DIPLOMA OF TEACHING - YEAR 1



DIPLOMA OF TEACHING - YEAR 2



DIPLOMA OF TEACHING - YEAR 3

*Some early morning fog,
along with the gradually
changing colours on
the trees, mixed with
some nervous-but-good
excitement about upcoming
practicum placements*

are all indicators that Fall has arrived and with it the start of the 44th year of operation at Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC).

This year our building is filled with students who have made the College their study destination for a preservice teacher education program: a record enrolment of 32 teacher candidates, of whom 18 are new and 14 are returning.

This year we have chosen the last verse of Psalm 111 as our theme text,

*The fear of the LORD is the
beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts
have good understanding.
To him belongs eternal praise."*

PSALM 111:10

In several ways the Psalm echoes the elements found in the opening verses of Psalm 78, the text found in the logo of the College. It also reinforces how and why we do what we do: to the praise of God's glory.

This year sees some changes in the faculty. We warmly welcomed Mr. Lennart de Visser and are delighted to say that he has found his feet quickly in his new role. Lennart is teaching a course in

curriculum theory and practice, a course on "school, government, and society" in which the legal aspects of the teaching profession are explored, and a brand-new *History for Elementary Teachers* course aimed to strengthen the knowledge base of future teachers.

Recently we had the opportunity to congratulate Dr. Menco Wieske who, having met the requirements of the Doctor of Education degree at the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education at the University of Toronto, replaced Mr. Wieske. Menco explored ways in which beginning teachers are supported in the first two years of teaching and conducted his research involving several principals in publicly-funded schools. His studies culminated in a dissertation entitled *At the Intersection of Policy and Practice: A Principal's Perspective on New Teacher Support Under the New Teacher Induction Program in Public K-12 Schools in Ontario*. We look forward to ways in which his work may provide helpful insight into how Reformed Christian schools can best support their beginning teachers.

The last faculty change sees Dr. Jack Huizenga in a new administrative role as Academic Dean. It means that in addition to convening the Academic Council, he will be directly involved in aspects of programming, course distributions, and scheduling. This change is part of the implementation of a new leadership model that sees a separation between the academic and the governance arms of the College. It also reflects one of the accreditation requirements set by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

Changes are not limited to personnel. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a description of some of the physical changes that occurred inside the building. We thank the office staff for coordinating and



organizing the work done over the summer and send a big shout-out to W.A.T.C.H. for their generosity in helping us pull the pieces together.

By way of reminder: If you are living in or visiting the Hamilton area, please feel free to drop by and say hello. Our library is open to our supporters and we encourage you to take a look at our holdings. The catalogue is available at <https://ctc.scoolaid.net/bin/omf> and allows you to see what is new in our collection. I draw your attention to the Pathfinders feature in the dropdown menu by which you can easily access titles arranged by topics. Mrs. Eleanor Boeringa, our librarian, continues to keep us up-to-date in many diverse areas as she looks after carefully curated displays of current topics. For example, the September display featured the theme of Truth and Reconciliation, while October has a Reformation focus and draws attention to literature written for children and adults alike.

Lastly, if you, or someone you know, are considering teaching as your vocational profession and want to know more about the College and its programs, please contact us. Mr. Mark den Hollander, our Recruitment and Admissions Officer, is more than willing to answer your questions, make arrangements for a visit, or assist you in other ways. The admission application deadline is February 1, 2025.

Indeed, CCRTC is a wonderful place for teaching and learning to the praise of God's glory!

CCRTC FALL

CALL CAMPAIGN

We can't wait to get in touch with some of you!

The CCRTC PR Committee is organizing a fundraising drive from October 21 to November 15. It means you may get a phone call in the next few days.

If you don't get a call this time around, no worries. We'll catch you later. In the meantime, your contributions are always appreciated.

Looking forward to our conversation!



ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2025

Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College invites applications from prospective students for the 2025-2026 academic year.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2025

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

For the Two-Year Diploma of Education Program:

- a suitable university degree

For the Three-Year Diploma of Teaching Program:

- a grade 12 diploma with university entrance equivalence

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

COVENANT CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE
410 Crerar Drive Hamilton, ON L9A 5K3 • 905-385-0634
admissions@covenantteacherscollege.com

aLL about BUILDING AND FRAMING!

CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

LOOKING BACK...

At the Annual General Meeting in 2012, the Board of Governors adopted a strategic planning model for the College using the analogy of a building. Considerable time was spent on emphasizing the importance of the foundation on which the building rests, and on the supporting pillars holding up the pediment or gable where which we find the vision for the College – *seeking to be the definitive source for Reformed teacher education*. The five pillars that hold up the vision in order to make it a reality are identified as faculty, financial stability, programs, partnerships, and operations. The analogy has served us well.

FAST FORWARD TO 2024...

Has the metaphoric building stood the test of time? Has the foundation remained intact?

Recently, due to the implementation of the Ontario Not-for-profit Corporations Act, the College had to amend its now obsolete *Letters Patent* by which it was incorporated in 1991. The amended articles reflect the *raison d'être* and the foundation on which we build our programs and courses and with thankfulness we note that the foundation has not changed. It remains the solid ground on which we fulfill our corporate mandate: “The maintenance and operation of a college for the academic and vocational training of teachers in accordance with the Holy Bible, the infallible Word of God, summarized in the ecumenical creeds and

the confessional standards known as: *The Belgic Confession*, *The Heidelberg Catechism*, and *The Canons of Dort*.”

In the process of seeking accreditation, great care is taken to communicate CCRTC’s foundation and vision: first to the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board reporting to the Minister of Colleges and Universities, and now to the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) reporting to the Minister of Education. For the latter, we took the next step in our building project: Making visible the framework that supports our program pillar. Since the institution of the College, the ultimate aim of its programs is to prepare teacher candidates for becoming professionals whose understanding of teaching as vocation is shaped by a deep sense of commitment. Commitment to God first of all and through him a deep commitment to students and their parents, as well as commitment to faithful teaching and continued learning. In turn, this commitment is supported by a knowledge component and a skills component, together comprising the ‘why’, the ‘what’, and the ‘how’ of teaching and learning. Recognizing that these components do not exist in isolation but function as intersecting and overlapping domains, we place the teacher candidate firmly in the centre.

Not surprisingly, it is the course work that makes the aim of the programs become a reality for our students. As is the case in most faculties of education, CCRTC’s

programs consist of three main areas of focus: Foundations, Curriculum and Instruction, and Field Experience (or Practicums). Each area, with the exception of the practicums, is divided into a number of course groupings and each course group consists of a number of individual courses.

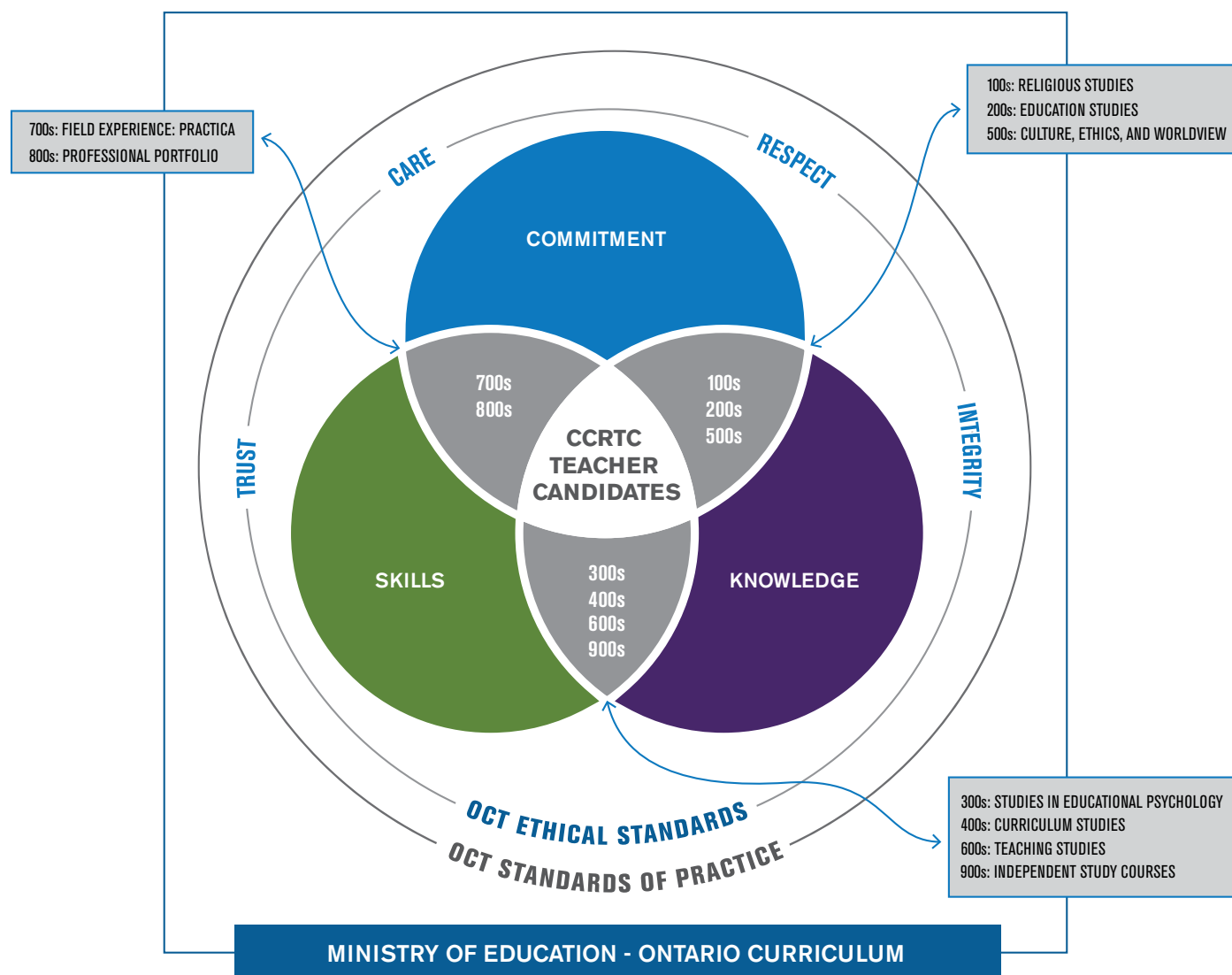
This probably sounds somewhat complex, but hopefully the program framework diagram on the next page makes everything a little less complex.

A clear articulation of CCRTC’s program framework is helpful in our regular teaching practice also. For each course a faculty member teaches, he or she develops a syllabus or outline, keeping in mind the position of a particular course within the program. This in turn is communicated to the students and allows us to be intentional in helping them understand the nature of the course and where the course is situated within the program.

LET US SHARE SOME EXAMPLES:

A Church History course is part of the Religious Studies course group and may be found in the overlapping area between “knowledge and commitment.” The course is intended to offer an in-depth knowledge of the Lord’s work in gathering, preserving, and defending his Church while fostering a deep yet humble appreciation for our place within that work. For our teacher candidates it means that there is information worth knowing. It also means there are rich discussions about different

CCRTC Program Framework



Reformed churches that all adhere to the same Scriptures and confessions.

Another example: Curriculum Studies form the 400-series course group. In this group we find courses that are directly related to the subjects we find on a weekly timetable. Think language, math, science, phys.ed., etc. These courses all find themselves in the area where knowledge and skills overlap. The teacher candidate becomes familiar with the contents of the Ontario Curriculum in a particular subject area, while also examining different ways of teaching that subject in an elementary school.

Finally, and for our students

the highlight of the program, the Practicum or Field Experience group is placed in the overlapping area of skills and commitment. It is during these weeks that a teacher candidate experiences life in a real classroom under the tutelage of an experienced teacher. Working from a knowledge base, our students receive ample opportunity to put their acquired skills into educational practice. It is during the placement sessions that teacher candidates begin to understand the

sense of commitment that is so directly connected to the knowledge and skills needed to educate God's children.

In closing, we are thankful that we have a strong foundation on which the program framework rests. In the end, the College seeks to train a next generation of teachers: faithful, vocational professionals who are ready and able to teach a next generation of covenant children.



thank you



W·A·T·C·H·

WOMEN ASSISTING THE TEACHERS COLLEGE IN HAMILTON



The fundraising efforts of W.A.T.C.H. have helped refresh key areas at CCRTC, including new countertops, bookcases, and our updated entrance logo. We deeply appreciate their contributions!





2024-2025 CCRTC PERSONNEL:

FULL-TIME FACULTY

C. van Halen-Faber, PRINCIPAL, BA; MEd.; PhD
L. de Visser, BA; BEd; MEd; OCT
M. den Hollander, BA; BEd; MEd; OCT
J. Huizenga, BSc; BEd; MEd; PhD; OCT
M. Wieske, DipEd; MA; EdD

SESSIONAL INSTRUCTORS

K. Harsevoort, BA; DipEd
R. VanAndel, BA (HONS); DipEd
C. Vanderpol, BSc (HONS); MEd
T. Wildeboer, BSc (KIN); BEd; MEd; OCT

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

L. Alkema, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
E. Boeringa, LIBRARIAN
M. Temple, FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR
J. van Leeuwen, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

ADJUNCT FACULTY

D. G. J. Agema, M.Div.



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WASHINGTON:

MRS. STEPHANIE BAREMAN
Cornerstone Christian School, Lynden, WA

from the FINANCE COMMITTEE



The start of a new academic year is a good time to thank our regular supporters. Without your prayerful and financial help, the College could not operate!

As has been mentioned before, there are several revenue sources that help us meet the budget. They include business and individual donations, school memberships, and student tuition. The student tuition for the 2024-2025 academic year is \$8,670.00. It should be noted that students who are members of a church outside the federation of Canadian Reformed Churches are expected to donate an additional 50% of the tuition fee.

The quest for accreditation has also affected the way in which we organize

the fiscal year, realizing that obtaining accreditation is one thing, but maintaining it is yet another. Annually, the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities will require a special audit due September 1st. In order to allow for this in the future, we have changed our financial year-end from August 31st to May 31st.

This change has both a positive and a negative aspect:

THE POSITIVE:

It coincides better with the academic year.

THE NEGATIVE:

Given that historically the months of June and July are extremely low as far as donation income goes, we start our financial year in a rather bleak way.

But then again: Perhaps you can help us eradicate the negative by reviewing (and

adjusting!!) your donation pattern and by using pre-authorized deposits that are spread over the year!

We want to close by reminding you that we still need to fill the position of Treasurer. If you feel in your heart that you are called to serve the community in this capacity, please contact the College. You can count on receiving excellent administrative assistance, while also serving the broader Reformed Christian community.

To see ways to financially support CCRTC please scan the QR Code or visit covenantteacherscollege.com/donate.html



NOTE: All photos included in this issue are used with permission.

✂ Please detach and mail to: CCRTC • 410 Crerar Drive • Hamilton, ON • L9A 5K3 or visit: covenantteacherscollege.com/donate.html

☐ Yes! I would like to support CCRTC!

- ☐ One-Time gift of \$ _____ (cheque enclosed)
☐ Monthly by pre-authorized automatic withdrawal

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROV _____ PC _____

CHURCH _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

☐ I prefer to receive my charitable tax receipt by email

Pre-Authorized Direct Withdrawal Form

I want to be a regular donor to Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College and allow automatic donations from my bank account as indicated below. I understand that I can terminate this agreement at any time.

☐ \$50/Month – Withdrawn on the:

☐ 15th of the month ☐ 30th of the month

☐ \$600/Year – Withdrawn on _____ each year

☐ \$_____/Month – Withdrawn on the:

☐ 15th of the month ☐ 30th of the month

SIGNATURE _____

Please ATTACH a blank cheque marked “VOID” to this form.