

Teachers

The first teachers were overwhelmingly male (first provincial records indicate 80% in 1847). By the end of the century, the gender proportions reversed. School Boards found they could hire 1 male or 2 female teachers for \$300/year. As for today, here and across the province we are moving from gender equality to only 10% of recent teacher graduates being male.

A sampling of the 1872 rules for teachers includes:

- Teachers will fill the lamps and clean the chimney every day.
- Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
- Women teachers who marry or engage in improper conduct will be dismissed.
- Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, visits pool halls, or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop, will give good reasons for people to suspect his worth, intentions, and honesty.
- The teacher who performs his labour faithfully without fault for five years will be given an increase of 25 cents per week in his pay.

Surprisingly, elements of these rules persist. During the 1960s local high school teachers were not permitted to buy any liquor within the town of Cobourg.

The present Education Act of Ontario includes:

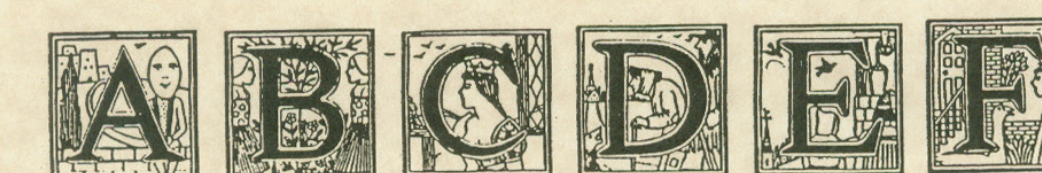
264 (1) It is the duty of a teacher and a temporary teacher to inculcate by precept and example respect for religion and the principles of Judaeo-Christian morality and the highest regard for truth, justice, loyalty, love of country, humanity, benevolence, sobriety, industry, frugality, purity, temperance and all other virtues;



Old School Master

Rules for Students 1872

1. Respect your schoolmaster. Obey him and accept his punishments.
2. Do not call your classmates names or fight with them. Love and help each other.
3. Never make noises or disturb your neighbors as they work.
4. Be silent during classes. Do not talk unless it is absolutely necessary.
5. Do not leave your seat without permission.
6. No more than one student at a time may go to the washroom.
7. At the end of class, wash your hands and face. Wash your feet if they are bare.
8. Bring firewood into the classroom for the stove whenever the teacher tells you to do this chore.
9. Go quietly in and out of the classroom.
10. If the master calls your name after class, straighten the benches and tables. Sweep the room, dust, and leave everything tidy.



And Students

Unlike the 19th century and early 20th, it is expected that all **Ontario children will attend not only elementary but high school as well.** Legally, Ontario students today can only end their education after high school graduation or the age of 18. Basic behaviour expectations have remained the same: **be ready to learn plus respect authority and other people.** Today more emphasis is placed on student safety versus the earlier emphasis on obedience. In addition to the use of corporal punishment, earlier times included unique rules such as **washing your feet** at the end of class if you were barefoot!



The Strap