

Message From the TODOS President March 2023

Colleagues,

It is March, the month where the spring equinox occurs in the Northern hemisphere. It is a time where I begin to anticipate spring. Each spring I am in awe; I live in a place where it appears that Mother Earth sleeps for 4 - 6 months each year; that is some plants have died, some plants are 'resting', the animals live in different ways, and Mother Earth is blanketed with snow.

I live in awe and wonder each year as the plants and animals 'return' through the trees budding, the migration of birds, and plants sprouting. Each year this happens; each year I am struck with wonder.

In the cycle of TODOS, March is also a month of anticipation. TODOS' 'year' is May 1 - April 30. This means, in March of each year there is the election of new Board members, appointments to committees, annual reports are written, the orientation of new Board members occurs, and planning will begin to emerge for the 'new year.' There is always anticipation of the new ideas that will unfold because there are new humans involved.

As I was preparing to write this piece, the end of a TODOS year and the 20th Anniversary of TODOS, I opened a book to a random page by one of my favourite authors, the late Richard Wagamese. This is what I read:

What's needed are eyes that focus with the soul. What's needed are spirits open to everything. What's needed are the belief that wonder is the glue of the universe and the desire to seek more of it. Be filled with wonder. (2016, p. 105)

I have been a member of TODOS for a long time but not for 20 years. In those first years of the organization I did not 'see myself' as a part of the conversation about a new organization. In the early years I focused on the "issues of teachers of Hispanic/Latino students." I did not teach Hispanic/Latino students. I did not focus on 'equity.' TODOS leaders at the time continued to invite me to 'see myself' in a way that opened my eyes and invited me to find what was in my soul. In my soul was equity. Once I 'saw' this, I could 'see myself' in the organization and became involved.

I now see TODOS as a learning organization where we have committed and engaged leadership and members. As a learning organization TODOS welcomes everyone who needs to / wants to act in order to bring about change within mathematics education. And, I see TODOS as learning by taking action, reflecting on that action and what happened as a result of that action, then refining the action to make it better, and then acting again.

As TODOS enters a new year, I am committed to inviting all humans who need to / want to act with eyes that focus with the soul, spirits open to everything, and the desire to seek wonder in creating changes within mathematics education - changes where ALL have access to, and success within, mathematics and mathematics education. In other words, I invite ALL to 'see themselves' within TODOS, a learning organization.

I believe we have made changes, and will continue to make changes, through our individual actions and collective action as TODOS. as we celebrate 20 years and as we take actions for the future.

Respectfully and in relation,

Florence Glanfield, President
TODOS: Mathematics for ALL

PS. Learning more about the [History of TODOS](#).

PSS. Here is the reference for the book: Wagamese, R. (2016). Embers: One Ojibway's Meditations. Douglas & McIntyre.