

# Alumni Profile

## Chris Cowley

BA Hons '03 History

### Current Career

Organization: Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) / Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board

Title: OTF President / Secondary School Teacher

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### Career Overview

I have been teaching Canadian and World Studies, and Religious Studies at St. John's College in Brantford since 2004. I'm also a faculty coach for the volleyball and baseball teams and faculty advisor to the students' council. Since 2005, I have been active in the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association at both the local and provincial levels. Currently, I serve as the president of the Ontario Teachers' Federation (the organization responsible for advocating for all 160,000 Ontario teachers at publicly funded schools).

### How has your King's education helped you get where you are today?

My time at King's was extremely valuable. Communication and essay writing skills are so important. There are all kinds of fields looking for History graduates. When I was at King's, I was a Resident Assistant. I learned how to manage a group of 60 people. I learned how to plan large group activities and how to handle students who broke the rules. This experience helped me in my current job and in teaching because being a teacher is a person-to-person job.

### What advice would you give to current students?

Force yourself out of your comfort zone. Being an RA at King's played a huge role in me getting into Teachers College. Years later, someone randomly asked me to get involved in the union. I wouldn't be where I am today had I not said yes to new opportunities. If you want to be a teacher, my advice is to be open. Be willing to relocate or try teaching avenues you might not have explored yet. Get on the occasional teacher list and go from there.

### Further Degrees / Certifications

Bachelor of Education · Western University

Masters of Education · Western University

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