



district 28

Protecting and enhancing public education since 1919

Some Good News

July is just around the corner – but there is even more to be happy about these days. Below I will lay out some of the details related to the Bill 115 Remedy – which will undoubtedly make many members happy. I am also pleased to share that after much work by OSSTF and our affiliates, the Provincial government has agreed to some major changes to how violence is addressed in our schools which I will expand upon below. In addition, the Provincial government has just announced, after consultations with unions in Ontario, new reforms to workplace laws. The big announcement came earlier regarding \$15/hour minimum wage, but there other changes including employers not being able to ask for Doctor sick notes if an employee has been away less than 10 days, continue to be announced. I think we all recognize that these announcements are part of a plan by Kathleen Wynne and her Liberal party to get re-elected next year. Regardless of the motivation, many of the things that the union movement has been fighting for are now on the table and for that I think we can be happy!

Speaking of Happy Members

At our last District Council Meeting of the year, held on June 7th, members who are retiring this year were invited to join Council for supper and were given a small gift on behalf of OSSTF District 28. Retiring this year are: Anne Banitowski, Alexa Fretz, Pam McCallum, Dan McClean, Bill Schroeder and Kathleen Turner from Madawaska Valley District High School; Jane Linauskas, Catherine Richardson and Deb Walden and from Mackenzie Community School.

We wish them all the very best in their next step in life!



Catherine Richardson, Anne Banitowski, Deb Walden, Jane Linauskas and Bill Schroeder.

Bill 115 Remedy

Members who were impacted by the loss of gratuities and banked sick days will be receiving compensation payments in the first pay after October 1, 2017. For eligible members no longer employed by the Board, the payments will be made after November 1. For members on statutory leaves, the payment will be delayed. Each member with vested sick leave will receive a payment of \$604. These are members who received a notice of a frozen gratuity amount as of August 31, 2012. This payment is in addition to the amount owed in the notice of frozen gratuity, and will be provided irrespective of whether or not the member took a pre-retirement pay-out. Each member with non-vested sick leave will receive a payment of \$1208. These are members who received a wind-up payment in place of an owed gratuity.

District 28 Update

- District 28's Electronic Newsletter

June
2017

Grid Loss Payments - These payments will be made by June 2018 due to the difficulty in data collection and verification. Each member will receive half of the amount of money lost due to delayed grid movement during the 2012/13 and 2013/14 school years.

All permanent teachers who were employed during the 2016/17 school year and are actively teaching in 2017/18 or 2018/19 will be entitled to one paid day off work. This day off can be taken during the 2017/18 or 2018/19 school year subject to the following:

a) Requests will not be denied provided that, if necessary, there are expected to be enough available occasional teachers to cover for absent employees and subject to reasonable system and school requirements. b) Teachers are required to provide appropriate work for each of their classes and other teaching and assessment responsibilities, including preparation of report cards. c) Requests will not normally include the first week of the school year and if needed to support student assessment periods and parent reporting. Requests must be made with advanced notice in order to allow for replacement.

The Board has yet to establish a process to make application for the day off, but will be sharing it with teachers, hopefully in the next week. (The application will likely be a Google form.)

Scholarship Opportunity

OSSTF is an affiliated member of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), and therefore children of our members can apply for the CLC / United Way

Scholarship. Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Current union member, or the child/dependent of a union member, that is affiliated to the CLC;
- Age 30 or under as of September 1, 2017;
- Enrolled for September 2017 to enter their first year of full-time study at a Canadian public post-secondary institution: university program (leading to a degree) or college program (leading to a diploma or certificate);
- Does not have any prior post-secondary studies;
- Currently enrolled or not more than two years out of secondary school.

The application deadline is August 9, 2017! at www.canadianlabour.ca/scholarship

Provincial Benefits Update

Most members will be seeing double deductions for health benefits from your May and June pays that will be used to cover the premiums for July and August. There will be a double LTD deduction in June for August.

Offence Declaration

All members should already have completed their Offence Declaration for the coming school year. All Board Staff are required to complete an Offence Declaration Statement each school year. You can complete your declaration through the Employee Self Service Portal through the employee area of the Board Website. Please contact me if you experience any difficulties.

Orange Shirt Day

September 30th has been declared Orange Shirt Day annually, in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-well-being, affirmation of commitment that everyone matters. Shirt Day until



esteem and and as an our to ensure around us Orange may not be September

30, but it is not too early to order your orange shirt! OSSTF members will have our logo embroidered on the front of the shirt and "Every Child Matters" screened on the back. Please complete the following Google form to order your shirt.

<https://goo.gl/forms/wfd8QxdmVRzyoKyC3>.

Educators Financial Group Mortgage Rates and More

OSSTF has owned a financial services company for over 40 years. Educators Financial Group (EFG) provides free financial advice to our members plus it offers many financial products including Registered Retirement Savings Plans, Registered Education Savings Plans, and Tax Free Savings Accounts. Many of these financial products will earn you higher returns than traditional banks as EFG has lower fees. EFG is currently offering mortgage rates of 2.44% for a

five year fixed rate and 1.99% on a five year variable mortgage. EFG also is offering a secured Line of credit at 2.35%. For more information check out their website <https://educatorsfinancialgroup.ca> or call 1-800-263-9541 to arrange a meeting.

Redblacks Tickets

Our local ETFO colleagues are once again offering OSSTF members the opportunity to purchase tickets to a Redblacks game in the fall. We have had great participation and feedback for this event in the past few years and so we are happy to continue with this event.

We have secured 81 tickets on the south side in section NN for the Redblacks versus the Tiger Cats on Saturday, September 9th at 6:00 PM. This is a rare Saturday home game and securing tickets in the coveted south side was not an easy task!

Tickets are just \$41.50 (taxes and fees included). Payment can be made by etransfer (to allieryan@gmail.com) and is preferred, but you may also send payment by cheque (payable to the Renfrew County Teachers' Local) through the Board courier to me c/o Highview Public School.

Due to the timing of the game and summer holidays, we will only be selling tickets and accepting payment until June 30th so don't delay in ordering your tickets!

Meeting with New Director

I finally had the chance to sit down and meet with Pino Buffone on May 11th. His interest in member concerns seemed genuine. I am cautiously optimistic about our new Director!

College of Teachers - Focus Groups

OSSTF has recently learned from members of Ontario College of Teachers' invitations to members to participate in focus groups planned for this summer. The email entitled, "The Ontario College of Teachers Wants to Hear From You!" has been sent to randomly selected members of the College.

Upon request, OSSTF was provided with some information concerning the focus groups the College is facilitating this summer. The process is described as part of the regular "consult with our members to inform the work of the College – our annual summer focus groups are one method used to obtain member feedback. Participation is entirely voluntary."

This summer, OCT is holding sessions in six locations across Ontario. The College will also be facilitating separate sessions with members of the public at these locations. While the College does not circulate the questions in advance, they will be consulting with members to obtain their feedback on a number of policy and communication questions.

Since OSSTF has not been provided with the questions that will be used, it is important to remind members to familiarize themselves with the Federation's established policies if they receive an invitation and choose to participate. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Violence in Schools

Minister of Education Mitzie Hunter and Minister of Labour Kevin Flynn attended the June 2, 2017 meeting of Provincial Council and made a significant announcement regarding the issue of violence in the education workplace. The announcement has four key components:

- An enhanced enforcement initiative will begin this fall, specifically targeting workplace violence in schools. Every single school board in the province will be visited by a manager, regional program coordinator and by an inspector. In total, more than 70 district school boards across the province will receive a visit in 2017-2018 from ministry officials.

- With input from the Provincial Working Group on Health and Safety, which was established through the central bargaining process, the Ministry of Labour will be creating education sector specific guidance documents which will have the same authority as those produced by a Section 21 Committee under the Ontario Health and Safety Act (OHSA). The guidance material will be completed and published during the 2017-2018 school year. Ministry of Labour enforcement teams will be visiting every school board in the province to review the boards' obligations under the OHSA.

Keeping in mind that highly sensitive and privilege information may be contained in a student's Ontario Student Record (OSR), the government is committed to ensuring that all education workers have access to the information they need to protect themselves and maintain a safe and inclusive classroom for students and other staff. Next steps will be predicated on advice from the Working Group, whose experience and expertise will inform next steps to expand access to information by the spring of 2018.

- A full review of reporting requirements for violent incidents will be undertaken, with the goal of creating a simple, standardized reporting process that is accessible online, and will facilitate the collection of accurate data with implementation in the spring of 2018.

This announcement comes just two months after more than 120 OSSTF members from across the province converged on Queen's Park to meet with MPPs, including cabinet ministers and opposition leaders, to lobby for precisely this kind of action.

Have a fantastic summer!
In solidarity - Jeff

What you need to know about Airbnb and home sharing this summer

Many educators cannot wait for summer. It's when we pack our bags and hit the road travelling to wherever our hearts desire. With the popularity of Airbnb and home sharing on the rise, you might be considering taking advantage of one of these services or perhaps renting out your own home while you're away.

Up until recently, home sharing has been a bit of a grey area for home insurance. We're pleased to announce that as of February 1st, 2017, [OTIP](#) is offering home-sharing insurance.

What is home-sharing insurance?

Traditional home insurance policies limit or exclude short-term rental activity, which is what home-sharing services like Airbnb fall under. This means that losses or damages that occur when you're renting out your property aren't covered under your home insurance policy, something that more than half of people who rent their homes out like this reported being unaware of in a recent survey.

The gap in coverage inspired the launch of the Short-Term Rental Endorsement (STR), an optional coverage that can be added onto your home insurance to protect your property and your belongings while you're renting.

How it works

The STR policy can be added to an existing home insurance policy or purchased as a standalone policy for rental income property owners. Depending on the nature of your rental, you can choose from the following coverage options:

STR1 – Protects principal and seasonal/secondary homeowners for rentals of their entire home for up to 90s days, or a portion of their home, such as a single room or a basement, for a full year. This is a great option for educators who are considering renting out their property while they're travelling this summer.

STR2 – Provides the same coverage as the above except the coverage is valid for up to 180 days.

STR3 – Allows property owners to rent out their entire property for the whole year. This is the option that can also be purchased as a standalone policy.

Am I eligible?

When you are renting your property out on a short-term basis like this you are considered a host.

Hosts are eligible for home-sharing coverage based on the following criteria:

- You are renting your property, or a portion of your property, for a short time only. This coverage is not intended for long-term rentals or lease situations.
- You rent your residence or a portion of your residence multiple times a year to different individuals
- Your rental is managed through a home rental network like Airbnb, Flipkey, Homeaway, VRBO or an independent professional property management company

The educator advantage

Many hosts consider home-sharing to be an excellent way to generate income on their property, helping them to cover the expenses and to keep their residence occupied while they are away.

With summer around the corner, educators will be happy to know that this coverage can be added at any time. This coverage is offered by some carriers, but not all. Give us a call today at 1-866-523-4111 to learn more and to find out if you are eligible.

This is our way of providing educators like yourself with more options to ensure you're getting the most out of your home insurance.



Do you know a student
who could use an extra
\$1,500 for tuition?

They could
WIN
a bursary
from OTIP!

If you're insured with OTIP and you or one of your relatives (e.g. child, step-child, grandchild, niece, nephew, aunt, uncle, sister, brother, spouse, etc.) will be a full- or part-time post-secondary student in the upcoming academic year, enter online for the chance to win a bursary from OTIP.

Twelve bursaries of \$1,500 each are awarded annually. The deadline to enter is June 15 each year.

Visit www.otip.com/bursary
for more information.

1.800.267.6847 | www.otip.com



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on Facebook – come and join our
group!

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