



*Protecting and enhancing public education since 1919*



## World Teachers' Day

This past year OSSTF rejoined the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) after a hiatus of several years. The CTF is an organization of all the major teacher unions across Canada.

"Teachers, the heartbeat of education". Is the theme of this year's World Teachers' Day. To learn more and join OSSTF in celebrating the great work of teachers everywhere in publicly funded education, click on the following link

<https://www.ctf-fce.ca/en/Pages/Events/WTD-2018.aspx>

## OTIP Conference

This past week I attended the annual OTIP Conference in Toronto. In addition to presentations on current usage of our Long-Term Disability plan there were several workshops on mental and physical well-being. Did you know that there are health benefits to being thankful and showing gratitude in your daily routine? According to scientists, counting your blessing year-round is good for your mental health and well-being! To learn more, visit [www.otipinsurance.com/article26](http://www.otipinsurance.com/article26)

One of my workshops was dedicated to medical cannabis. Currently, medical cannabis is not being covered by our group plan, but it

would seem that it will likely happen sooner rather than later. The evidence is clear that medical cannabis is effective in treating some conditions and once it starts to be available in gel capsules and has a drug identification number (DIN #) it will likely start to be covered. It was made clear in the workshop that the use of cannabis by those under 25 has been proven to have serious negative consequences. Once cannabis becomes legal in Canada, it will be treated like alcohol is by our School Board. I am sure we will be hearing more about that in the coming weeks.

If you are contacting OTIP about any issues related to your health and dental benefits, I would encourage you to keep a record of your interactions, including the name of any representatives you speak to at OTIP.

## Provincial Council

Six times a year, OSSTF Bargaining Unit Presidents come together for our Provincial Council (PC) meetings. PC acts as the governing body of OSSTF between AMPAs (the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly). Last week Linda Schultz, Shelly Raymond and I attended the first PC meeting of the year in Toronto.

President Harvey Bischof addressed the meeting and spoke of OSSTF's strategy to deal with the Ford conservatives. There have been rumblings of "tying funding to achievement of outcomes", and a "modern relationship with labour" which is likely code for charter schools and more privatization. To paraphrase some of Harvey's remarks - We are not going to be the

# District 28 Update

- District 28's Electronic  
Newsletter

October  
2018

loudest voice in the room, but we will be reasoned and intelligent. We didn't start this fight, but we are not walking away from any challenges. We will be the, "adults in the room." We will be offering support to ETFO in their recent court challenge against the proposed changes to the health and physical education curriculum. We will be working with other unions to counter anti-worker moves by the government.

Provincial OSSTF did make a submission to the recent Conservative Government Consultation on "Planning for Prosperity". OSSTF highlighted the following areas for consideration: Review the twenty-year-old Education Funding Formula, Amend the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, Reduce School Board Reliance on Arbitration, Eliminate the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) and move to One Public Education System in Each Official Language.

Our Provincial Office (60 Mobile) is due for renovation and a plan was approved at PC which will see an environmentally friendly and sustainable transformation of our office space. There are costs associated with the renovation, but the plan will ultimately create a new building that will earn money! Our official OSSTF charity for this year is Kids Help Phone.

October 11<sup>th</sup> is the International Day of the Girl. I encourage members to investigate hosting a Sexual Violence Prevention Workshop before the end of December available through Draw

the Line and the White Ribbon Campaign.

[dtl.whiteribbon.ca/for-educators](http://dtl.whiteribbon.ca/for-educators)

## Consultations on Curriculum

I would like to remind members who also happen to be parents that they can complete the online provincial consultation!

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/for-the-parents>



## Sisters in Spirit

Tomorrow, Sisters in Spirit vigils will be held across Canada to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls #MMIWG.

Thursday OCT 4<sup>TH</sup> a Vigil will be held from 5-7 pm at the Women's Monument at the Petawawa Emerald Necklace Trail Centennial Park at the end of Wilson Ave in Petawawa.

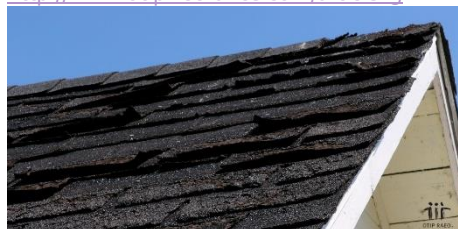
## How to Prevent Wind Damage to Your Home

High winds can be a dangerous, and costly, instance of extreme weather. Consider the damage incurred by the severe spring wind storm that hit southern Ontario in May 2018, causing over \$380 million in property damage. 1 Though none of us can control the weather, there are some actions that home owners can take to help minimize their potential losses in the event of a wind storm.

It's important to be aware of the risk level for high winds in your area, as well as of your home's potential vulnerabilities to wind damage.

To learn more, visit

<http://www.otipinsurance.com/article25>



## Retirement Workshops

We will be holding at least two Retirement Workshops this year. One will be on October 24th offered by OSSTF Provincial Staff in the Nishku room at Opeongo High School at 6:30 pm and will run for approximately 2 hours. Please let your Branch President know if you plan on attending so we can have the correct number of materials. We will also have a workshop in the spring offered by OTIP. If you have never been to one of these workshops, I strongly encourage you to go!

## OSSTF Paid Day

Permanent teachers are reminded that they must use their Bill 115 Remedy day before the end of this school year if you have not already taken the day. They can be used on PA days and they can also be taken over two days. You should have received an email from Kelly Goldberg to your school email account on June 30, 2017 with information about the paid day the following link to a Google form to apply for your paid day.

<https://goo.gl/forms/U8sPgTDcsNYfkKek2>

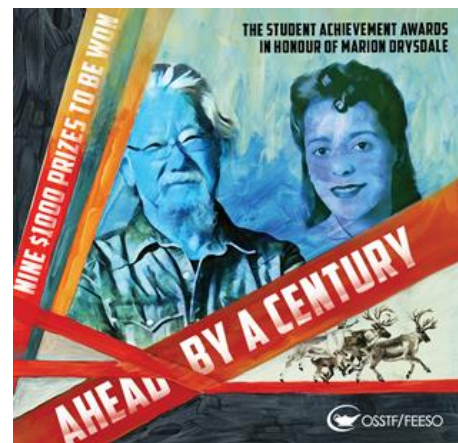
Use it or lose it!

## Resilience

On our Provincial website you can find a new ten-minute video resource on cultivating Resilience. There will be a new workshop that will be available through our Educational Services Department soon. Check out the video - <http://www.osstf.on.ca/en-CA/resource-centre/educators-resources/cultivating-resilience.aspx>

## OSSTF's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

I will continue to highlight our union's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary throughout this school year. It is certainly an event worth celebrating! Coming soon to the Provincial website will be an online museum and historical vignettes. A book is in the works as well as some other surprises!



## Student Achievement Awards

Every year OSSTF runs a province-wide writing and creative arts competition for students. The winners are given a \$1000 prize, brought to Toronto and honoured in front of our Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly with a video that showcases their work. There are several categories, including poetry, prose, video and media. Students will also be judged in intermediate or senior divisions. This year's theme is "Ahead by a Century". Check out previous years' winners and contest rules at:

<http://www.osstf.on.ca/services/awards-scholarships-grants-and-bursaries/osstf-feeso-awards-for-non-members/student-achievement-awards.aspx>

In Solidarity!  
Jeff

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](http://www.otip.com/bursary)  
for more information.

1.800.267.6847 | [www.otip.com](http://www.otip.com)



OSSTF District 28 Renfrew is now  
on Facebook – come and join our  
group!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 613-585-2899

Email: [osstf28@gmail.com](mailto:osstf28@gmail.com)

Website: [www.osstfd28.ca](http://www.osstfd28.ca)

Twitter: @osstfd28

Facebook: OSSTF District 28 Renfrew

