

News @ 25



Ottawa-Carleton
District 25
Teachers' Bargaining Unit

Update from the Office: 729-7211

October 2006

From Your President:

Kerry Houlahan
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CoT Elections: Top Three Reasons to Vote

1. The members who are elected to the College of Teachers sit on and possibly chair three very important committees:
 - Investigation
 - Discipline
 - Fitness to Practice

These committees oversee the professional lives of our members if they are referred to the College. It is extremely important to elect teachers to the College who will fulfill these responsibilities with due care and diligence.

2. The members who are elected to the College of Teachers set the membership fee each year and approve a budget that is based upon that income.
3. The members who are elected to the College of Teachers approve regulations related to teacher qualifications, participate in the process to accredit teacher education programs and courses and approve the Standards of Practice as well as the Ethical Standards of Practice for the Teaching Profession.

Vote by October 24th at: www.oct.ca

The list of endorsed candidates is available on at www.osstf25.on.ca/teachers

Professional Development

Teachers' Executive is pleased to announce that Dan Maxwell is our new 2nd VP responsible for Education Services. Dan's portfolio includes PD funding; applications can be sent to him via Beam or at John McCrae. Please visit our website (www.osstf25.on.ca) to access the revised PD application – more \$\$\$\$ is available this year! Click on the Teachers' page and then choose the FAQ link on the left.

From Your Chief Negotiator:

Kerri Ferguson
kferguson@osstf25.on.ca

Two Additional PD days

At the end of last school year, the Ministry of Education announced that 2 additional PD Days could be added to school calendars. There were strict guidelines on when these days could occur. The Board has approved Friday November 17, 2006 and Monday, February 26, 2007 as the new professional development days. The Ministry of Education has some explicit expectations for these days. It appears that they will be in-school PD days that focus on improving teachers' skills in the area of literacy, numeracy and student success in the transition into secondary school, graduating from secondary school and obtaining employment or attending college or university. Friday, February 9, 2007 remains on the calendar as the OSSTF sponsored Board Wide PD Day organized by the various subject councils.

How are We Paid?

Many inquiries come through our office that are a result of the confusion over how we, as teachers, are paid. Our salary is based on 194 days of work. We do not earn any salary over the summer or during the Christmas or March breaks. This year, we received a 4% pay on September 1 and September 5. This is an advance in pay as we had only worked one day (September 5) yet had been paid 8% of our salary. If a teacher resigned on September 6, he/she would owe almost all of the 8% back to the board. From September 1 to mid February we will be paid more than we have earned. From that point on, part of our salary is withheld and we will be paid less than we have earned in order to get a larger pay at the end of June. We receive the balance owed to us on June 28; the last day of school. When a teacher resigns or goes on an unpaid leave, including pregnancy leave, a calculation is done to determine the difference between the salary that has been paid and the salary that has been earned. If the teacher is leaving before February 16, he/she will owe the board whereas if the teacher leaves after February 16, the board will owe the teacher. It is a myth that working the first day of school before leaving or returning for the last day of school will make a significant financial difference. The difference would be only one day's pay for that one day worked.

OSSTF Workshop for Department Heads

The role of department heads is becoming increasingly difficult. There can often be some conflict between what is expected of them from administration and what it means to be an OSSTF member. This workshop will offer advice for dealing with some of the potential conflicts. Mark your calendars for November 14, 2006. Registration information will follow.

From Your Membership Services Officer:

Louise Derry

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Pension

When can I retire? When will I reach my 85 factor? Can I retire sooner than that? Later? How much pension will I get? Is my personal and contact information correct? Discover the answers with your online Statement of Pension Benefits on iAccess. Just go to <http://www.otpp.com>, click "Member Sign-in", and enter your user ID and password. Don't have a password? Call the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan at 1-800-668-0105 to register for the website, and you're set!

Retirement and Pension Workshop

The OSSTF Teachers' retirement and pension workshop presented by Gerald Armstrong is on October 19 at 4:30 pm at the district office. Participants must register before October 13. E-mail Marilyn Miles to register.

Home care services

OTIP is offering a free seminar on Long Term Care, to be held on October 23 2006, at the Southway Inn (2431 Bank Street) at 7:00PM. Learn about the dilemma of home care, the impact of chronic illness, and the costs covered by the government and by the individual family. To reserve your spot call OTIP at 1-877-260-3892.

