

# News @ 25



Ottawa-Carleton  
District 25  
Teachers' Bargaining Unit

## Update from the Office: 729-7211

Welcome back! We hope you all enjoyed a restful summer and that the school year is off to a good start. This is the first edition of a monthly update that will keep members informed of timely issues. Please visit our website at [www.osstf25.on.ca](http://www.osstf25.on.ca) to access information on a variety of issues relevant to OSSTF District 25 teacher members.

### **From Your President:**

Kerry Houlahan  
khoulahan@osstf25.on.ca

### **New Teachers' Induction Program (NTIP)**

Boards are mandated by the Ministry to offer an NTIP program and each new teacher is required to participate. The program must include:

- a form of board and school orientation;
- professional development specific to the needs of new teachers;
- a non-evaluative mentoring program which includes time release.

Important information for the mentoring relationship:

- the mentor is a volunteer
- the mentor must not evaluate the new teacher
- a safe, non-judgemental exit procedure is available in case either the new teacher or the mentor is not happy with the mentorship arrangement.

OSSTF will be working to ensure the protection of members' rights as this initiative is implemented and your feedback would assist us in doing so effectively. Please feel free to contact the District Office with concerns or feedback.

### **College of Teachers Election: Message from Provincial Executive**

You have an opportunity to vote in the election for the Governing Council of the College of Teachers and we strongly urge you to take advantage of that opportunity. As you probably know, the McGuinty government passed legislation that allows for a greater number of teacher representatives on the Council. It is important that candidates be elected who will be strong advocates for teachers and the teaching profession. The Ontario Teachers' Federation and the affiliates have identified candidates who will be passionate advocates on behalf of the teachers of Ontario.. Between September 5 and October 24 you can cast your electronic ballot through the College website by logging into your personal member's area. The College has had a significant impact on the professional lives of teachers. We urge you to work to elect these individuals who are endorsed by OTF, AEFO, ETFO, OECTA and OSSTF.

**NOTE:** The list of OTF endorsed candidates is available from your Branch President



**From Your Chief Negotiator:**

Kerri Ferguson  
kferguson@osstf25.on.ca

**Time is Running Out - Have You Received Your Money Yet?**

Have you applied for your \$460 (pro-rated for part-time teachers) from the Teacher Development Account? All teachers who were part of the Teachers' Bargaining Unit (day school, Cont. Ed and Home Instruction) in 2004/2005 are eligible. This includes teachers who were on leave but does not include occasional teachers. The deadline for applying is September 29, 2006. The application form and more information is available on our website at [www.osstf25.on.ca/Teachers](http://www.osstf25.on.ca/Teachers).

**Is your Paycheque correct?**

All teachers should be checking their pay stubs regularly as errors do occur. The chances of an error are most common for teachers who have recently changed category, changed contract status (reduced or increased number of classes assigned), or returned from a leave. Teachers should compare their salary printed at the top of the pay stub to the collective agreement and should also confirm that they are receiving their headship and/or master's allowances.

**From Your Membership Services Officer:**

Louise Derry  
[lderry@osstf25.on.ca](mailto:lderry@osstf25.on.ca)

**Summer courses and \$\$\$\$**

If you took a summer course for the purpose of upgrading your OSSTF rating statement, go to the OSSTF website, [www.osstf.on.ca](http://www.osstf.on.ca), Certification, and fill out Certification Form #1. Send this form along with the required documents to the OSSTF provincial office as

soon as possible. It may take up to eight weeks to receive your updated rating statement. You must provide the Board with your updated rating statement before December 31 2006 to get retroactive salary to September 2006.

**Thinking of upgrading?**

You must get approval from the OSSTF Certification department **before** taking a course for the purpose of upgrading your rating statement. Fill out Form #2 found on the Certification page of the OSSTF website.

**Glossary of terms and deductions on your pay stub**

REGACA	Regular academic teacher
DRG	Post graduate degree
RESP	Responsibility allowance
EIC	Employment Insurance
CPP	Canada Pension Plan
TPP	Teacher Pension Plan
AD/D	Accidental Death/Dismemberment
DENTAL	Dental insurance
GRLIFE	Group Life Insurance
HEALTH	Medical insurance
LTD	Long Term Disability
OAI	Optional AD/D
OTL	Optional Term Life
COLLEGE	College of Teachers
OSSTF	Provincial union dues
SECLVY	District 25 Teachers' Unit
UN...Way	United Way donation

**Do you have appropriate benefit coverage?**

Your benefit coverage should reflect family status changes such as marriage, separation, divorce, additional dependent, loss of spousal coverage, and death of spouse or child. To increase your level of coverage in health and dental insurance, you must advise the Board within 31 days of a change or in January during the open enrollment. You may reduce your coverage from family to single at ANY time.