

News @ 25



Ottawa-Carleton
District 25
Teachers' Bargaining Unit

Update from the Office: 729-7211

September 2007

Welcome back! We hope you all enjoyed a restful summer and that the school year is off to a good start. We will continue producing these one-page monthly updates to keep members informed of issues. Please visit our website at www.osstf25.on.ca to access information on a variety of issues relevant to OSSTF District 25 members.

From Your President:

Kerry Houlahan
khoulahan@osstf25.on.ca

Provincial election

The outcome of the **October 10th** provincial election has the potential to impact the future of public education. OSSTF is supporting candidates who believe in the importance of publicly funded education. As teachers, we need to be informed about the issues and we need to exercise our democratic right and civic duty by voting! As well, please consider donating time or money to a candidate who supports public education.

In Ottawa-Carleton, we have identified the Ottawa-Nepean West riding of Jim Watson and the Ottawa-Orleans riding of Phil McNeely as priority ridings. Please stay tuned for information about how members can help. In addition, **October 10th** is also the date of the referendum on electoral reform. OSSTF is supporting the change to the mixed member proportional representation voting system, better known as MMP.

More information about these issues and other election-related issues will be made available to you by the District Political Action Committee,

your Branch President, and your branch PAC representative. Or you can call the office for more information.

VOTING MATTERS...MAKE IT COUNT!



Professional Emergency

This is just a reminder that if you are called to a meeting with school administration in order to discuss your job performance, including any action that may lead to discipline, you have the right to Federation representation. Contact your branch president or **Kerry Houlahan** before attending the meeting. Whether you just need a few words of advice or more, you will receive the necessary support.

From Your Chief Negotiator:

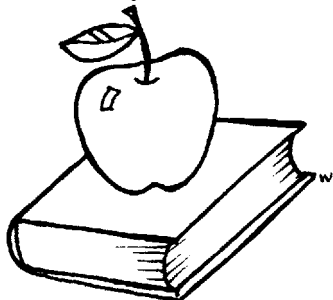
Kerri Ferguson
kferguson@osstf25.on.ca

Check your Pay-stub!

Now, more than ever, teachers will have to make a concerted effort to ensure that they are being paid properly. We no longer receive paper copies of our pay-stubs, which means that teachers must remember to go on-line to review the details. Errors in pay do occasionally occur and if they are not found in a timely manner, significant money can be lost and is not recoverable. Take the time in the next month to look at your pay-stub and salary for this year. You should be checking that you are placed in the proper category and experience step of the grid, and that your headship and/or postgraduate allowances are being paid. To see your pay-stub go to www.ocdsb.ca/employee and choose the Employee Inquiry link. You can also review your personal information, your grid placement, your benefit options and your absence history.

Meet the Teacher Nights

This is the time of year when, as teachers, there are many parents who would like to meet us and see what we look like. Meet the Teacher Nights can be a great experience and teachers are encouraged to make use of them. However, this is a voluntary activity for teachers. If you are not attending your school's Meet the Teacher Night, use the appropriate procedure to notify your principal in a timely fashion so that accommodations for your absence can be made.



From Your Membership Services Officer:

Louise Derry
lderry@osstf25.on.ca

Certification and salary

Did you have your qualifications re-evaluated by the OSSTF Certification Department, and get an upgraded certification rating statement? If so, send a copy of your new certification rating statement to the Board before December 31 for retroactive pay to September.

Did you take summer courses for the purpose of moving up the salary grid? Make sure you fill out the new OSSTF Certification Form #2, and send this along with the proper documents to the provincial office as soon as possible. You must provide your updated rating statement to the Board before December 31 for retroactive pay to September.

Are you covered?

Did your status change during the summer? If you married, had a child, separated or lost coverage due to your spouse's retirement, you can increase your benefits coverage in health and dental insurance within 31 days of the change, or in January during open enrolment. You can reduce your coverage at any time.

2007 Occupational Health and Safety Conference

OSSTF is sponsoring a two-day conference on November 9 and 10 dealing with topics of interest to health and safety representatives. Workshops include "coroner's inquest", "mock inspections", "duties" and "legal issues". Space is limited and more details and registration information will be sent to H&S teacher reps.

