

THE OCT/TS OUTPOST

OFFICE, CLERICAL, TECHNICAL AND
TRANSPORTATION UNIT OF DISTRICT
#18

DECEMBER 2017

PRESIDENT: Susan Brighton

NEW:

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KEEP THESE DATES IN MIND:

Seasonal Break

December 25th 2017, return to
schools January 8, 2018

Although care has been taken in preparing the
information contained in this publication,
accuracy cannot be guaranteed. The opinions
and views expressed do not necessarily reflect
those of OSSTF District #18. We reserve the
right to edit for content and/or space.

SOME USEFUL CONTACTS:

OTIP: 800 267 6847

519 888 9683

OR www.otip.com

EAP: 1 800 387 4765

100% CONFIDENTIAL

OMERS:

1 800 387 0813 OR

416 752 6843

OSSTF Provincial Office:

1 800 267 7867

416 751 3394 FAX

My OSSTF if you have forgotten

Your password email

osstf-member-help@osstf.ca

www.osstf.on.ca

YOU ARE ENTITLED:

To have union representation in any
meeting you are called into by your
administrator/management. Please
use the numbers above if you need
my support and or assistance.

Dear Members,

Are you ready for Christmas? We
are all asking the same question.
Really it doesn't matter, it is
coming regardless. Don't tell
anyone what you didn't get done
and they will never know!

Take advantage of the Season to
enjoy the company of friends and
family that so often, through the
year, we find it hard to organize
the time to get together. This is
the beauty of the Season. It's like
our reward for getting through the
year one more time and the
opportunity to set fresh goals for
the upcoming year, giving
ourselves a fresh start.

Our Employer is always willing to
assist members with wellness
goals and have been running
numerous programs with your
health in mind. Take advantage of
these courses in the New Year to
help you successfully reach your
personal goals for the New Year.

To all of you, I wish you the very
best of the season. I wish you
health, wealth and the joy of
family and friends.

May you abound in blessings and
good cheer. See you in the New
Year.

Susan Brighton

COLLECTIVELY SPEAKING!

FROM PROVINCIAL OFFICE
Changes to Employment
Standards Act

Now that Bill 148 has received
royal assent, we are analyzing its
final wording with respect to its
application to OSSTF/FEESO
members. In particular, we are
looking at which of our members, if
any, may be affected by changes
to scheduling provisions, public
holiday pay, the increase in
vacation entitlement, improved
leave provisions, and the provision
of equal pay for equal work
regardless of employment status.
In general, any of the amendments
to the Employment Standards Act
would only apply to those
members who do not have a
superior entitlement under the
applicable Collective Agreement.
Further information will be
forthcoming on these matters as
soon as our analysis is complete.
Numerous questions have come to
Provincial Office regarding employers'
ability to require employees to
produce medical notes. Bill 148 states
that an employer may not request a
medical certificate as evidence of
entitlement to access the 10 days of
Personal Emergency Leave. This
restriction applies specifically to
employees accessing the 10 days of
Personal Emergency Leave under
section 50 of the Employment
Standards Act. Since OSSTF Collective
Agreements contain sick leave
provisions that are superior to those
provided by the ESA, **the restriction
on requesting medical certificates
will not apply to OSSTF members
who are accessing sick leave under
their Collective Agreement.** The
employers' ability to request medical
certificates from OSSTF members
accessing sick leave will continue to
be in accordance with our Collective
Agreements.

Please note

Under “Some Useful Contacts” that I have added the email contact you should use if you have forgotten your password or how to access [myOSSTF](#). Send an email and Provincial Office will get back to you with the assistance you need.

Committee Report on Benefits:

Although last year’s glitches were resolved, with the new school year start up, there was a challenge with data transfer.

A Middleware solution was created that should address all data problems and is expected to be in place by the end of the calendar year. There are among the few boards where there are people still without benefits. Simcoe is in the first wave to test the Middleware solution. Instructor groups would be able to come in on November 1 and the Transportation Consortium will be coming in before the end of December. Concerns raised about not getting the service from OTIP; the call centre has been giving false/misinformation. A letter out that the call centre should be providing information to Member’s calling in as to the issue their particular unit facing and that it is being looked at. They should not be giving mixed messages to the members. Members in some boards are reporting that they love the new benefits. Donna Morrison is working on a document of rules that boards and bargaining units can use as a guide.

Do you know someone?

Who should be nominated for the James Forster Human Rights Award?

The James Forster Award for Human Rights shall be presented annually to a member of OSSTF who has shown exemplary dedication in the struggle for equity and the promotion of human rights locally, provincially and/or internationally over a number of years.

Established by the Provincial Council of OSSTF in April 2001, the James Forster Award gives locals the opportunity to bring a focus to the countless federation members that work tirelessly and often quietly to educate, advocate and promote Human Rights in their union, worksite or community. Any active member of OSSTF can be nominated and the deadline is January 31, 2018. The guidelines and application process can be found under awards for members at www.osstf.o.ca/awards.

There are numerous other awards that members could and should be nominated for please check them out at the above mentioned website.

Many times these awards go annually with no nominations. We are missing a great opportunity to honour our members who go above and beyond daily. Give it some thought!

It’s a Wacky World

Accidentally funny signs seen around the world:

- In a Japanese hotel room: “Cold and Heat. If you want to condition the warm in your room, please control yourself.”
- In a Norwegian cocktail lounge: “Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.”
- At a Hong Kong tailor shop: “Ladies may have a fit upstairs.”
- At an Acapulco hotel: “The manager has personally passed all the water served here!”

Money matters

Did you know that Educators Financial Group has been offering complementary financial planning plus a wide selection of investing and lending solutions exclusively to teachers, educational workers and their families since 1975? We have a strong history of increasing the financial literacy of educational workers, enabling you to achieve your financial dreams.

- Created by OSSTF
- Over 18,000 clients
- Over \$1 billion in assets under administration
- Over 160 learning sessions held with education members in the past school year.

