

# THE OCT/TS OUTPOST

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

FEBRUARY 2018

PRESIDENT: Susan Brighton

**NEW:**

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**KEEP THESE DATES IN MIND:**

February 20, 2018 Meet with

Provincial Office in Elora

February 28, 2018 Pink Shirt Day

April 11, 2018 Day of Pink

April 19 – 20, 2018 OASBO

(registration late February)

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](http://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](mailto:osstf-member-help@osstf.ca)

[www.osstf.on.ca](http://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,

Our year is moving so very quickly.

We just put Christmas and the New Year behind us and Family Day, March Break and Easter are just around the corner.

During this March Break the OSSTF District BU's will be sponsoring free skates across our Boards communities. Please watch for further info on your BU website, flyers and newsletters. It would be great to see some of our families out enjoying these events.

I will be going on Vacation from February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 6, 2018 inclusive. I will return to the office March 7, 2018. Please contact Kathy Gristey should the need arise at John F. Ross 519 822 7090.

*Susan Brighton*

## Please, Meet us Half Way!

Please watch for your invitation to join your Union as we plan events where we will meet for light refreshments and beverages at local restaurants.

The dates have been set for April 4, 2018, April 18, 2018, May 2, 2018 and May 16, 2018.

At this time we are in the planning stages and venues and times will come out in the March Newsletter so please save the dates if you can.

## COLLECTIVELY SPEAKING!

It's that time again. The politicians are scrambling, planning and strategizing to secure our votes. I wanted to share an excerpt from our Provincial Office with regard to the Liberal parties Cabinet Shuffle. "With less than five months before a provincial election, Premier Kathleen Wynne promoted three female MPPs to Cabinet and announced additional changes including in the Ministry of Education and in the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development.

The changes to her Cabinet include:

- Indira Naidoo-Harris (Milton) is the new Minister of Education and remains Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care
- Mitzie Hunter (Scarborough-Guildwood) becomes Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development
- Eleanor McMahan (Burlington) becomes President of the Treasury Board and Ministry Responsibility for Digital Government
- Kathryn McGarry (Cambridge) becomes Minister of Transportation.
- Steven Del Duca (Vaughan) becomes Minister of Economic Development and Growth.
- Nathalie DesRosiers (Ottawa-Vanier) joins Cabinet as the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.
- Daiene Vernile (Kitchener-Centre) moves into Cabinet as Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport.
- Harinder Malhi (Brampton-Springdale) becomes the new Minister of the Status of Women.

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- In addition, Dr. Helen, Minister of Community and Social Services, will take on the responsibilities of Chair of Cabinet.

In order to make these changes, three MPPs not running again were dropped from Cabinet. They include former Education Minister Liz Sandals (Guelph), former Deputy Premier and Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development Deb Matthews (London North Centre) and former Economic Development Minister Brad Duguid (Scarborough Centre).

With only a few months to the election, these changes are more about improving the electoral prospects of these Cabinet Ministers and the Ontario Liberal Party, particularly the three new incoming Ministers, than any fundamental shift in policy. As well, with these changes, the new Cabinet better reflect gender parity with 13 women and 16 men.

## Casual List

Will be opening up, I believe the posting has already been issued and closed. Training for the successful hires will be held on March 8, 2018 at the Board Office in Guelph.

## It's Tax Time

Please ensure that your personal contact information is up to date with the Board, OTIP and with Provincial Office. Please be sure to include your home address, home telephone number, cell number. It is always helpful to the Union and Provincial Office to have a non-board email address where you can be reached. Email addresses should be shared with Janice Minor or myself.

The Board recently sent out a memo with regard to T2200 Declaration of Conditions of Employment Forms. We as your Bargaining Unit Executive have explored the possibility of requiring the Board to issue T2200's

for members who routinely submit claims for mileage. It has been determined that it is not a benefit to our members as this would result in members being required to claim mileage reimbursements as a taxable income.

Of course it is always your personal preference as to you how you manage your income and tax responsibilities but we did wish to bring this to your attention so you are able to make an informed decision when filing your taxes.

Also a reminder that now that our benefit costs are not processed by our employer you will receive an additional tax slip from OTIP listing your taxable benefits. In previous years this amount would have been captured on your T4 distributed by the Board. You are not being taxed more you will only be receiving more taxes slips.

## Happy Heart Month!

*February is Heart Month. Here's how to prevent heart disease, what signs and symptoms to look for, and five tips for living your healthiest life.*

Heart disease is the second leading cause of death in Canada, and the leading cause of death among Canadian women. With February marking Heart Month, we're turning our attention to spreading awareness about heart disease and how you can improve your heart's health starting today.

To learn more, visit [www.otip.com/article21](http://www.otip.com/article21)

## Provincial Office Visits:

For those members who were able to meet with and talk with the Provincial reps as they visited worksites, thank you for taking the time away from your busy days to assist Provincial Office in understanding what is important to you going forward with negotiations and giving them a clear insight into your work environments. It is grass root information like this that makes their efforts on your behalf more successful. Your time was appreciated.

For those members who were not able to engage at the worksite we will be hosting an event at the Elora office located at 294 Mill St. E. February 20, 2018 from 4:30 to 6:00. Light refreshments will be served please plan to attend. (Watch for flyer at your worksite with more information).

If you are unable to attend you still can be heard! Log into the OSSTF website and go to MyOSSTF account and connect to the Voting Centre to provide feedback to the questions we have asked at the site visits. I encourage you to take part and share your concerns so the Provincial office can gather a wide range of perspectives from as many members as possible.

Please come and have your voice and concerns heard. This is a great opportunity to have the ear of the Provincial Office. They want to know how you feel, what your concerns are. This is an exceptional opportunity to meet and interact with the Provincial Office Reps.

