



# OSSTF DISTRICT 26 MEMBERSHIP INFO-LETTER



## **Boundary 2020 and OSSTF**

After consultation with the public, school board officials are currently reviewing the Boundary 2020 proposals. OSSTF's concerns with the Boundary 2020 proposals revolve around staffing implications and the overall implementation of the plan with employee wellness and employee rights playing a primary role. We neither advocate for, nor against, the current status quo or the proposed Boundary 2020 changes to the grade configurations of our secondary schools.

ETFO, the union that represents public school elementary teachers in Ontario has initiated a campaign in Eastern Ontario that is attacking the proposed grade configuration of the Upper Canada Board's Boundary 2020. What OSSTF takes exception to, is the unfortunate inference in the ads that public high schools are not safe learning environments, or that they are somehow deficient learning environments. Many other teachers and education workers across Ontario have been disparaged by such claims.

Indeed the very research that ETFO cites in their campaign literature says nothing specifically about grade configuration. The literature does speak of critical criteria for learning. These criteria can apply to any school, elementary or secondary. The conclusion of ETFO that, "Only elementary schools pass the test," is patently false. It is clear that this is a "public relations spin" rather than fact.

OSSTF members would never presume to question the integrity or the ability of our elementary colleagues. It is unfortunate that ETFO has failed to share this same basic courtesy.

## **New Teachers – Contract & LTO: Important Information**

Congratulations and welcome to OSSTF District 26. New members are urged to click on the "New Teacher Information" Quick Link at [osstf26.com](http://osstf26.com) for important information on Pay, OSSTF Group Rating Statements, Experience, Allowances, Benefits, and Workload.

## **Family Day – February 18<sup>th</sup>**

Members are advised that Monday, February 18 is a statutory holiday.

## **2008 Spring Staffing Process - Teachers**

The 2008 Spring Staffing Process will soon begin. The Joint Secondary Staffing Review Committee, comprised of OSSTF and Board personnel, monitor this process from beginning to end. Teachers are staffed for the following school year through this process. They can also request for the following school year: a partial or full leave of absence; transfer; or increase their entitlement.

**By March 1, 2008 ...**

**SENIORITY LISTS will be posted. Ensure your seniority date is correct. Report errors to Human Resources. Your seniority is important in the staffing process.**

**Request forms for LEAVES, PART-TIME TEACHING, TRANSFERS, and INCREASES IN ENTITLEMENT must be completed and submitted. These forms will soon be made available. Stay tuned.**

**For more information and details on the Staffing Process, visit [osstf26.com](http://osstf26.com), "Contract Teacher" menu.**

## **Call for Presenters – 2008 Ed. Services Conference**

The 2008 Educational Services Committee Conference *Stronger Together ... Diversity in Education* will be held on **Oct. 22-24, 2008** at the Markham Hilton Suites and Conference Centre.

The Conference will address topics with respect to diversity and will offer OSSTF/FEESO's newest workshop initiative. All educational workers and related professionals are invited to submit a workshop application form to cover such topics as: enhancing respect of individual, religious and cultural diversity; addressing forms of social injustice such as racism, homophobia, sexism, and violence; inclusive education; and aboriginal education. The "Call for Presenters" can also be downloaded from [osstf.on.ca/diversity](http://osstf.on.ca/diversity). The deadline for submissions is March 28, 2008.

## **Pat Messner Honoured**

The Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity (CAAWS) has named TR Leger teacher and veteran water ski coach Pat Messner to the 2007 list of *Most Influential Women in Sport and Physical Activity*. Pat shares the list with other well-known Canadians such as Silken Laumann, Cassie Campbell, the Honorable Helena Guergis, Sara Renner, Beckie Scott and Hayley Wickenheiser.

Throughout 2007, Pat Messner facilitated the growth of competitive and recreational adaptive water skiing in Canada. She took the Canadian Adaptive National Team to the 2007 Worlds Championships, where they won one silver and 2 bronze medals and finished 7th overall. She was also a Senior Trainer who developed and delivered SkiAbility training to Facilitators, allowing adaptive water skiing to be introduced to numerous athletes with a disability across Canada. She also found time to contribute to the development of the new WSWC NCCP Coaching Program and was named 2007 Water Ski and Wakeboard Canada's Coach of the Year.

On behalf of District 26 and its members - Congratulations.

## **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Safe School Conference**

The 11th annual *Safe Schools Conference* will be held on February 21, 2008 at the Doubletree International Plaza Hotel, Toronto Airport. The registration fee is \$259/person before January 25, 2008 and \$279/person after January 25, 2008. Fee includes breakfast, lunch, parking, workshops and conference materials. For more information or to register on-line, visit [canadiansafeschools.com](http://canadiansafeschools.com) or call 416-977-1050

## **School-Based PD Funding**

This is a reminder that the School-Based PD Funding for up to \$1000 per school (max of \$5000 in total available to all schools) has not been exhausted as of yet. Simple, but effective ways of accessing this money can include Provincial OSSTF workshops on topics such as Boundaries, Bullying, and Cyber-Bullying. Inquiries can be directed to the District Office. Application forms are available on the District website. Application deadline is April 3, 2008.

**Are you a Part-time Teacher who...**

applied to an internal secondary contract teacher vacancy to increase your entitlement and were not the successful candidate? Contact the District Office immediately to ensure your rights, under the Collective Agreement, were not violated.

**Teacher Learning and Leadership Program (TLLP)**

The TLLP is the program launched by the Ministry of Education in October 2007. The TLLP is a project-based professional learning opportunity for individual experienced teachers or teacher-led groups consisting of experienced teachers and other experienced educational workers (e.g. educational assistants, social workers). Interested teachers are invited to submit project proposals for self-directed professional learning and knowledge exchange activities. OSSTF encouraged members to apply to the program, which is a multi-year project with a budget of \$5 million.

Phase 1 of the TLLP is already underway, with the project proposals currently undergoing the review and approval process. The authors of successful proposals will be notified of their project's approval in early February, 2008.

The Ministry announced the beginning of Phase 2 of the TLLP in the first week of January 2008. Phase 2 will see the approval of a second set of project proposals, giving both new applicants and unsuccessful Phase 1 applicants the opportunity to access funding from the Ministry. Phase 2 applications must be forwarded to school boards by February 15, 2008.

The program guideline for the TLLP and the application forms are available at [edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teacher/tilp.html](http://edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teacher/tilp.html). Interested OSSTF members should once again be made aware of the TLLP and be encouraged to submit project proposals.

**School Law 2007**

District 26 CPAC has purchased a copy of the OSSTF reference guide "School Law 2007" for each school and Education Centre. The book has been given to your school librarian to be catalogued and included in the resource section of your library for teachers.

**CLASS SIZES SEMESTER 2**

Teachers are reminded that **class caps are in effect every day**. Also, as of March 1<sup>st</sup> the total number of students that you have **cannot exceed** the sum of the applicable "maximums" + 3.

Complete your personal Class Cap Calculation sheet (new sheet will be provided by Branch Steward at the beginning of semester 2). Review your actual class sizes and compare them to the information on your Class Cap Calculation sheet. All members who have class size violations (caps, or "max" + 3) are to report them immediately to their Branch Steward.

If you have a class size violation, keep all attendance lists/records etc. for future reference.

**Request for Lessons on Socially-based Curriculum Topics**

Please be advised that the deadline for submitting your proposal to Provincial OSSTF office has been extended to February 27, 2008. For more information on this topic, please review last month's *Info-Letter* archived on our website [osstf26.com](http://osstf26.com).

**Provincial Standing Committees and Councils**

Appointees are required for Provincial Standing Committees and Councils. Applicants must complete the application form as fully as possible and forward the form ASAP through the District Office to Richard Zeilstra, District 26 Provincial Councillor. All applications must have the Councillor's Report attached and must be forwarded to Provincial Office by March 1, 2008.

**Awards, Scholarships, & Bursaries Deadlines**

- OTIP Teaching Awards (March 15)
- Bob Brooks Award (April 1)
- Norm Snyder Award (April 13)
- Federation Family Bursary (April 30)

Visit [www.osstf26.com](http://www.osstf26.com), "Awards & Bursaries" link for details

**OSSTF and OTIP Workshops**

OTIP offers many workshops across the region, including:

- Mar 1 (Kingston) – Retirement Planning workshop (\$25)
- Mar 27 (Ottawa) – Long Term Care Insurance (Free)
- Mar 29 (Ottawa) – Retirement Planning workshop (\$25)
- May 31 (Ottawa) – Retirement Planning workshop (\$25)

For more information on each of the above workshops (location, registration, etc.) go to [otip.com](http://otip.com) - "Workshops for You" tab.

Provincial OSSTF will be hosting two retirement workshops. Sign up for one by contacting the District Office (phone or e-mail) ASAP. Space is limited and spouses are welcome.

- Mar 25 - 4:30pm Cornwall Best Western
- Mar 26 - 4:30pm Smiths Falls D.C.I.

OTIP is also hosting a free Retirement Planning workshop on April 9, 4:30pm at the District Office. If interested, contact the District Office.

**Calendar of Events**

**February**

- 7<sup>th</sup> – PSSP & TBU Executive
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Flag Day
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Family Day
- 19<sup>th</sup> – District Executive Meeting
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Pre-AMPA meeting; Repetitive Strain Injury Awareness Day
- 28<sup>th</sup> - SPDF Committee

**March**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Deadline for Leaves/Transfer/Increase entitlement requests
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Deadline for Provincial Standing Committees & Councils
- 8<sup>th</sup> - International Women's Day
- 7-10<sup>th</sup> - AMPA
- 8 – 16<sup>th</sup> - March Break
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Anti-Racism Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Retirement Workshop, Cornwall
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Retirement Workshop, SFDCI

