



OSSTF DISTRICT 26 MEMBERSHIP INFO-LETTER



District 26 10th Anniversary Golf Tournament

OSSTF District 26 is celebrating its 10th anniversary since amalgamation in 1998 by hosting an OSSTF members' golf tournament on Friday, June 27, 2008. The District is providing golf (excluding cart), a buffet lunch, drink ticket and door prizes.



The tournament will be held at Manderley on the Green (<http://www.manderleygolf.com>) in North Gower. The day will begin at 9:30 am with a 9 hole shot gun start.

All members, golf pros and beginners, are encouraged to come out for a fun day. If you don't want to golf, members are welcome to come for the lunch. More details on registration for the event will be provided in the near future.

2008 Spring Staffing Process - Teachers

At the request of the Employer, OSSTF has agreed to extend some staffing timelines. These include:

- when a teacher is told they are surplus (no later than May 15)
- when a surplus teacher submits their Preferred Placement form
- the Transfer meeting and all meetings to place surplus teachers
- the part-time increase meeting
- Displacement (Bumping) meeting

All members, especially those who may be declared partially or fully surplus, are encouraged to read the staffing related information on the district website. In an era of declining enrolment, we foresee large reductions in the level of FTE teachers required for 2008-09.

Although there is no contractual obligation to do so, we urge teachers who have elected to retire/resign at the end of this school year, to advise the Employer as soon as possible.

Teachers are urged to stay informed by visiting www.osstf26.com, "Spring Staffing Process" link in the "Contract Teachers" menu.

Certification Changes for 2008/2009

A number of amendments to the Certification Regulations were passed at AMPA 2008. The full changes, which will take effect for the next school year, are available for viewing at the provincial OSSTF website (osstf.on.ca). Some amendments may produce positive effects on re-evaluations for members. All teachers and occasional teachers should review these changes to ensure familiarity with new opportunities for upgrading their Group placement. Members may see positive changes to their Group placements or their requirements for advancement under the new rules.

The changes include, but are not limited to:

- Master's or PhD degrees used for placement in Group 4 for Technological Studies teachers (this new option for placement in Group 4 may be used in place of an Honours Technological Studies Specialist or Three Session Specialist AQ)
- Reduced requirements for upgrading for some teachers with second class standing 4 year degrees versus pass standing degrees (1.5 additional full university courses required versus the current 2 courses)
- Master's or PhD degrees used for placement in Group 4 by academic teachers who have 3 year undergraduate degrees with 5 additional courses (9 courses with an overall "B" average in a single subject area)

Exchanges – Teachers

Any two teachers with the same qualifications and entitlement are eligible to apply for an exchange that will commence in September 2008. An exchange may be for one semester or school year. Interested pairs of teachers must submit their names to the Administrator of Human Resources, **no later than June 1st**. Read Article 22 of the Collective Agreement for more information.

OTIP "Insight: Information For Good Living" Newsletter

Members interested in looking at and subscribing to this OTIP information letter may do so by going online at www.otip.com/insight. and selecting the "Create your profile subscription" link.

Workers Health & Safety Centre Scholarships

For the past eight years, the Workers Health & Safety Centre has offered Scholarships for students who reside in Ontario and who will be attending post secondary education in the upcoming academic year (Fall 2008). The theme for this year's scholarship is **"How can employers better ensure the safety of their young or new workforce?"** There are eight \$1000 scholarships available in two categories. Deadline is June 6th, 2008. The application can be found at www.whsc.on.ca/yw/scholar.cfm.

Boycott against Horizon Milling and Robin Hood brands

The Canadian Labour Congress has approved a boycott against Horizon Milling G.P., a grain milling operation that produces products under the name of Robin Hood. On April 25, Horizon Milling of the Cargill Foods empire, locked out 61 members of UFCW Canada Local 416P. The workers' contract expired November 30, 2006. Since the lockout began, the company has removed all grain stored in the elevator but continues to service its customers with products purchased at other Horizon Milling locations. The employer is not prepared to negotiate a fair and equitable collective agreement. The parties last met more than six months ago. In support of the locked out workers at Local 416P, messages of solidarity can be sent to: Fred Cronshaw; c/o UFCW Local 416P; 538 Forks Road West; Welland; L3B 5K8

District 26 Annual General Meeting – May 8, 2008

All members of OSSTF District 26 are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting. It is a wonderful opportunity for members to meet and socialize with other members from our Board, be informed about the business of the Bargaining Units and District, and exercise their democratic right to vote on motions that govern and give direction to the Bargaining Units and District. Best of all, free buffet with wine!

Details of the AGM, including all Reports of Officers are available at www.osstf26.com "What's New" menu - "D26 Annual General Meeting" link

Your OSSTF District website ... WWW.OSSTF26.COM ... information is one click away!

OTF seeking Project Manager

The Ontario Teachers' Federation is the advocate for the teaching profession in Ontario and for its 155,000 teachers. The Federation is developing innovative professional development opportunities and resources for teachers funded by government grants. Many projects have already begun and require completion; others are in process or in development. We are seeking an experienced educator to serve as the project manager.

The Project Manager will be responsible for overseeing the completion of the existing project including all aspects of project management; for liaising with OTF staff responsible for Professional Affairs; and for co-ordinating communication strategies to share the successes and experiences of the project.

The position is a full-time, term definite position based in Toronto. Annual salary range is \$95,000 - \$115,000. The assignment will be equivalent in time to a school year but will commence during the summer of 2008. Application deadline is May 14th, 2008.

Services Review Committee – Call for Applicants

The District President is soliciting from the membership at large those interested in serving on this District Committee. Members are asked to read/complete the application form at www.osstf26.com, "What's New" menu. Applications are due by May 8, 2008.

PD Funding

Currently all PD funding from the Secondary Professional Development Fund has been allocated. Members are still encouraged to apply for supportive funding if they are going to a conference, workshop, etc. Money sometimes becomes available at the end of the school year resulting from teachers who do not attend their planned activities.

OTIP Retirement Workshops

OTIP offers many workshops across the region. For more information on the workshops below (location, registration, etc.) go to otip.com - "Workshops for You" tab.

May 31 (Ottawa) – Retirement planning workshop (\$25)

Class Cap Arbitration Award

In October 2007, an arbitrator issued an award for class cap overages in the 2005-06 and 2006-07 school year. The award would have the Employer financially compensate those members who were named in the grievance.

The Employer recently sent OSSTF the compensatory amounts owed to teachers in the grievance. To our disappointment, the Employer denied a significant portion of those teachers named in the grievance. OSSTF will be reviewing the Employer's calculations with hope that some members will soon be compensated. Given the Employer's denial of many overages, it may take quite some time to settle those.

The parties are still dealing with overages that occurred during this school year.

Teacher Staffing Grievances - Update

As you may recall, OSSTF filed three staffing grievances resulting from the spring 2006 staffing processes for the 2006-07 school year. OSSTF has also monitored issues that arose during the Spring 2007 staffing processes for the 2007-08 school year.

The parties, their respective legal counsels, and an arbitrator have met on many occasions to mediate and arbitrate the issues raised in the grievances. Much progress has been made. Among them include a "below the line" approach in declaring surplus in schools, the creation and maintenance of a deemed qualified list, and the fact that a member may be assigned more than two sections in general studies for which they are deemed qualified. An arbitration award is currently being written to address the "bundling/unbundling" of vacancies and to address the Employer's granting of Mutual Consent to surplus teachers or teachers on recall who are not qualified for a position.

The compensatory remedies for those members negatively impacted in 2006-07 and 2007-08 have been discussed. Although there is agreement on few of the members negatively impacted, the parties are apart on most. Much more time will be required to resolve these remedies.

Attawapiskat School Campaign

For eight years, Attawapiskat children have had no school due to a leaking diesel tank underneath their old, condemned school. Attawapiskat is an isolated, fly in community of 1,300 people on the coast of James Bay and is located 455 km north of Timmins.

Since 2000, the 400 students of Attawapiskat have had to learn in cold portables. Three federal Indian Affairs Ministers have committed to moving ahead and yet in December 2007 the new Indian Affairs Minister, Chuck Strahl, arbitrarily cancelled the proposed school claiming there was no money. As a result of an unwavering letter writing campaign the federal government relented and agreed to fund the project. Unfortunately, the federal government has often reversed these last minute decisions once the public's attention has diminished. For this reason pressure must be maintained. Join the campaign for Attawapiskat by signing the petition at www.petitiononline.com/FNCA08/petition-sign.html

Awards, Scholarships, & Bursaries Deadlines

Canada Post Literacy Awards (May 25)
OFL Labour Honour Roll Scholarship (May 31)
Lincoln Alexander Award (June 2)
Workers H&S Center Scholarship (June 6)
OTIP Student Bursary (June 15)

Visit www.osstf26.com, "Awards & Bursaries" link for details

Calendar of Events

May
8th - D26 Annual General Meeting
29th - TBU Council meeting

June
5th - TBU Executive meeting; PSSP Executive meeting
12th - District Executive meeting
21st - National Aboriginal Day
27th - District 26 10th Anniversary Golf Tournament



***OSSTF District 26 represents approximately 1000 Teachers, Occasional Teachers and PSSP members
OSSTF serves approximately 60,000 members in 140 Bargaining Units across Ontario***

