

### **New Members – Important Information**

Welcome! New members are urged to visit the District website at <http://www.osstf26.com/> and Quick Link to the **New Teacher Information** for important details on **pay, related experience, group rating statements, and benefits**. Occasional Teachers and PSSP members should also visit the website and peruse the wealth of information under their respective menus.

### **Occasional Teachers PD Fund**

All Long Term Occasional and Casual Occasional Teachers are eligible to apply to the newly created Secondary Occasional Teacher Professional Development Fund (SOPDF). Each Occasional Teacher member is eligible to access the fund once per school year for a maximum of \$150. Professional activities which are eligible include: conferences/workshops, job-shadowing and in-service, and upgrade courses. For more detailed information about allowable expenses and to access application and expense claim forms, go to the District website at [www.osstf26.com](http://www.osstf26.com). Applications must be received by June 1, 2010 and will be approved on a first-come first-served basis as limited funds are available.

### **Marion Drysdale 2010 Student Achievement Awards – Two Provincial Winners from Upper Canada District 26**

Congratulations to two students and their teachers from Rideau DHS! Leanne Schachow's student, Kaitlin Hamilton won the Provincial award for her entry, "Breaking the Bar", in Cat. B-2, Senior Visual Art and Joe Laxton's student, Tessa Morris won the Provincial award for her entry, "For Mankind" in Cat. A-3, Senior 11-12, University. The winners will each receive a prize of \$300.00. They are also invited to Toronto, along with two family members and their teacher, as a guest of the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly in March 2010.

### **LTD Premium Reduction for 2010**

Effective March 1, 2010 members participating in OTIP's LTD plan will see a reduction in the monthly premiums deducted. Due to an adjustment within the LTD pool, the rate will drop from 1.43% of salary to 1.37%.

### **CLASS CAPS and "Max + 3" are in effect as of February 19, 2010 (Excluding Adult/Alternative schools)**

Class caps (Max + Flex) **and** the "Max + 3" (total number of students that you have cannot exceed the sum of the applicable "maximums" + 3) are both in effect starting Feb 12, 2010 to the end of the semester. *NB: registered students, peer tutors, students auditing, integrated students, etc all count towards your class cap.*

Please review your actual class sizes and compare them to the information on your **Class Cap Calculation** sheet (distributed by your Branch Steward).

Report all class size violations (caps, or "max" + 3) to your Branch Steward and keep any necessary documents, which confirm those class size violations (class lists etc.).

### **Oct. 2010 Ed Services Conference: Call for Presenters**

The Provincial Educational Services Committee is hosting its next biennial conference – "*Tools & Toys...Technology in Education/Outils et jeux... Technologie en éducation*". The 2010 Conference will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton-Toronto Airport from Oct 27- 29, 2010. It will focus on the varied impact of technology upon educational settings in Ontario. OSSTF is currently seeking proposals for workshops, highlighting new and innovative processes, technologies, techniques, and tools. All educational workers and related professionals are invited to submit a workshop application form relating to the theme of the conference. Suggested topics with respect to technology include: educating students; providing professional development for effective technology use; social networking; technology in the workplace; technology to improve student achievement; assistive technologies; wonders of technology in education; the use & abuse of technology; understanding terminology. If you have a workshop topic which you believe would be appropriate for consideration, please fax your fully completed application form no later than April 9, 2010 to: Anne Marie Sutton, (Fax) 416-751-7079. An application form can be downloaded from [www.osstf.on.ca](http://www.osstf.on.ca).

### **Extended Health Coverage Outside of Ontario**

Our Extended Health policy provides coverage while traveling outside of the province or country. Details of the coverage can be found in the Teacher Benefit booklet available online.

Go to [www.sunlife.ca](http://www.sunlife.ca) and first register with Sun Life to obtain an access I.D. and a password. You will need the contract number (25246) and your employee I.D. number. To print your Travel Card once you are registered, click on Group Benefits and you will see Quick Links on the right "Print Travel Card". In an emergency, members must contact Europ Assistance immediately. (This is a requirement of our plan). Physicians and hospitals can call to confirm benefits and arrange direct payment. All contact information is on the card.

Please note: if you decide that this policy does not provide enough coverage while outside Ontario, you are always able to purchase more "travel insurance" through any provider, at your own cost.

### **Teacher Self-financed Leave Plan (x/y)**

Teachers interested in applying for a self-financed leave, with deductions to begin next year, must submit their written application by March 1. Applications are available on *Insite, Human Resources Department*. Please copy all applications to the OSSTF District 26 Office, fax 1-800-513-8574.

### **2010 Spring Staffing Process - Teachers**

The 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 2010-2011 school year through this process.

**March 1, 2010 ...**

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

More information and details on the Staffing Process will be forthcoming

**Terminating Your OTIP LTD Policy - Clarification**

Members become ineligible to receive LTD benefits, and may therefore terminate their policy 90 days prior to either:

1. the date on which they qualify for a 60% unreduced service pension; or
2. the date on which they reaching age 65; or
3. the date they will retire with an 85 factor as indicated in a Letter to the Board (effective the date OTIP is advised)

NOTE: If a member was no longer eligible to receive LTD benefits (as per only #1, #2 above), and they continued to pay LTD premiums during those last 90 days, they may apply to OTIP to receive a refund of those premiums for the current and previous school year (if applicable).

More details available at [www.osstf26.com](http://www.osstf26.com)

**Provincial Standing Committees and Councils**

The OSSTF Provincial Council Nominations Committee invites members who are interested in contributing to the work of the Federation by serving on a Provincial Committee or Council to consider making an application. An online application form is available this year. Those opting to complete a paper application form must ensure it is forwarded to Rick Zeilstra at the District Office at least 1 week prior to the March 1 deadline to allow time for the Provincial Councillor's Report to be attached. The link below will provide further information as well as an application form. <http://www.osstf.on.ca/provincialcouncil>

**Temporary EI Benefit Enhancements**

The Government of Canada is temporarily providing additional Employment Insurance (EI) regular benefits to unemployed long-tenured workers. If you have contributed to the EI program (paid at least 30 percent of the annual maximum EI premiums) for at least 7 out of 10 calendar years and have received regular EI benefits for no more than 35 weeks in the last 5 years you may be eligible for additional coverage if you make a claim between January 4, 2009 and September 11, 2010. Note: This does not apply to benefits paid during a Pregnancy or Parental leave.

**OSSTF Pension/Retirement Workshops**

OSSTF offers **workshops on pension planning and retirement**, discovering common sense financial strategies and retirement planning ideas. Members can ask questions and speak privately with the Pensions Officer and/or presenter. For more information and to register, please contact the District Office.

**Apr 6** – Best Western Hotel – Cornwall @ 4:30

**Apr 7** – Smiths Falls DCI Library @ 4:30

**OTIP Retirement Workshops**

OTIP hosts a number of **“Walk into Retirement” workshops**, at a nominal fee. See the OTIP website for registration information and location <http://www.otip.com/workshops/workshops.aspx>

**Mar 27** – Kingston (in English); Cornwall (in French)

**Apr 17** – Ottawa (in French)    **May 29** – Ottawa (in English)

**PD Available – APPLY NOW!**

Members making applications to the PD fund are asked to ensure that they have attached the required documents. Several applications have met with processing delays. Once you have attended your event, please submit the Expense Claim form promptly. Approved claims are reimbursed on your regular pay advice as “expenses”. The fund is currently under-expended, providing good opportunity for members to attend events in second semester.

**~ Win a \$25 Chapters Gift Card ~**

All D26 OSSTF members are invited enter a draw for a \$25 gift card from Chapters. Simply email the answer to the question below to [office@osstf26.com](mailto:office@osstf26.com) with the words “Info Letter Draw” in the subject line. A draw will be made from those who submitted the correct answer. Deadline for entries is 3 PM on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>.

**The Question:** What is the deadline for applying for teacher self-financed leaves (x/y) plan, deductions to begin next year?

Congratulations to Hope Evans of SFDCl,  
the winner of the January draw.

**PAR Leader Duties – Final Semester 1 Report Cards**

OSSTF would like to reiterate that, in accordance with Article 19.02, PAR leaders **should not** “assess teachers’ comments made on students’ formal reports”. This means reviewing such comments (grammar, syntax, format, etc.), making a determination as to the appropriateness of the comment, making such corrections or advising the teacher or administration that such a comment is either acceptable or not acceptable. If PAR leaders are directed by their administration to do so, we ask that they comply and inform the local Branch Steward. PAR Leaders must refrain from volunteering to “assess teachers’ comments made on students’ formal reports”.

**Calendar of Events**

**February**

- 15 - Flag Day, Holiday (Family Day)
- 16 – Status of Women / Human Rights Committee meeting
- 17 – Educational Services Committee meeting
- 18- District Executive
- 28 - Repetitive Strain Injury Awareness Day

**March**

- 4- Pre- AMPA meeting
- 8 - International Women's Day
- 12-15: AMPA
- 13-21: March Break
- 21 - Anti-Racism Day
- 31- TBU CBC meeting



OSSTF present several awards each year. Read about them and email us if you know of a deserving colleague.  
[details at [osstf26.com](http://osstf26.com), “Awards & Bursaries” Quick Links]

**OTIP Teaching Awards** (March 15)

**Bob Brooks Award** (April 2)

**Norm Snyder Award** (April 9)

**Federation Family Bursary** (April 30)

**Provincial Executive Award** (April 30)

