

2010 Spring Staffing Process - Teachers

The 2010 Spring Staffing Process has begun. 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.

The seniority list has been posted and members should have verified if the information is correct.

By April 1, 2010 ...

REQUEST FORMS for Leaves of Absence or Reductions in Teaching Time due at HR

Information & details on the Staffing Process is at osstf26.com>Contract Teachers> Spring Staffing Process

(Transfers, part-time increases, surplus, placement meetings, displacement, and recall)

-All members are encouraged to read this-

Special Education and Safe Schools Conference

The Ministry of Education will release Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario: Supporting Students with Special Education Needs Through Progressive Discipline, K-12. The conference is intended to assist school and system leaders to promote and support a caring and safe school culture and to help them make decisions for students with special education needs. Also, it will suggest strategies and resources to address behavioural challenges for students with special education needs, with a focus on prevention, early intervention, progressive discipline and consideration for mitigating circumstances. For more information or to register visit www.canadiansafeschools.com/ <Special Education and Safe Schools>. The conference is on April 29, 2010 in Toronto and costs \$209 per person.

Grievance Update – Lack of Mandatory Benefit Coverage

OSSTF recently resolved a grievance regarding approximately 30 teachers who should have had mandatory extended health and/or dental benefit coverage from Sept 1, 2004 – Aug 31, 2008, but did not. As part of the settlement, these teachers received an average benefit claim reimbursement for each year they did not have mandatory coverage in those benefits.

If you were an active full-time teacher who did not have either extended health and/or dental coverage from Sept 1, 2004 – Aug 31, 2008, and did not receive a claim as a result of this award, you will have until April 30, 2010 to self-identify to the Board.

How do you know if you did not have mandatory benefit coverage when you should have? Log onto Self Serve on Insite. Review pay cheques from Sept 1, 2004 – Aug 31, 2008 in which you were active and full-time. A non-zero dollar amount listed under the “Amount” column for each “Dental” or “EHC” lines in the box titled “Employer Paid Benefits” indicates you did have coverage in that benefit for that month (NB - this non-zero amount usually appears on the first pay of each month). If you find that no such non-zero amounts exist on your pays, you may be eligible to a claim under this grievance resolution. Email rob@osstf26.com for more details.

OTPP Pension Buyback Rules

If you take time off to study, travel, or have a family, and your leave is board approved, you may be eligible to buy the credit for the time you’re away from work. Many members of the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan (OTPP) already understand the value of buying back time for their leaves of absence. Doing so may help you retire a little earlier under the 85 Factor while improving your pension, since the more years of credit you accumulate, the higher your pension will be. As a result of recently signed amendments to Schedule 1 to the *Teachers’ Pension Act*, beginning next September, members will see changes to the rules for buybacks. You will have more options for repayment and other improvements. Watch for the Spring 2010 issue of the OTPP’s *Pensionwise* magazine for a full announcement of the changes and how they will affect your options

Ontario Health Coalition (OHC) Public Hearings Hospitals

The OHC is organizing public hearings in communities across Ontario on the future of small, rural and northern hospitals. One of these hearings is Winchester on March 23. These consultations are intended to provide a meaningful opportunity for residents to express their views on hospital restructuring and how they and their communities are affected by closures and cuts to services. At each of the hearings a non-partisan panel will use public input to create a report which will be given to the Minister, Premier, media and legislature. By March 15, email ohc@sympatico.ca if you’d like to write a submission or make an oral presentation in Winchester.

April 28, 2008 - National Day of Mourning

For some years Canadian unions have been observing an annual day of remembrance for workers killed and injured on the job. On average, one Canadian worker is injured at work every 9 seconds. More than 800,000 injuries are reported annually in Canada. In 2007, 1,055 people lost their lives at work. That's four people every work day, dead because their workplace was not safe.

OSSTF members are not exempt from risks and injuries. Many of our members are injured while dealing with student aggression and with the advent of technology; repetitive strain injuries are prevalent amongst our members. Pro-active health and safety remain our only chance to prevent injuries.

The Cornwall & District Labour Council will be holding a ceremony (Apr. 28th 11:45am) at Lamoureux Park in Cornwall to commemorate fallen workers. A luncheon will follow. They will also award 5 bursaries of \$50.00 to S.D. & G. & Prescott-Russell students who submit an Essay on “What the Day of Mourning means to me” (min. 500 words), a sculpture, a poster, or a web page. The recipients of the bursaries and their teacher will be invited to attend the ceremony/luncheon at Lamoureux Park. Direct submissions to Elaine MacDonald (contact the District Office).

More information is available at the www.whsc.on.ca, <http://www.clc-ctc.ca/>, the local library, or the Workers Health & Safety Centre at 1-888-869-7950.

OTF TVA Online Survey

The OTF Teacher Voice on Assessment Survey is an opportunity for secondary school teachers to share their views on the assessment practices they use on a daily basis. All secondary school teachers in Ontario received an invitation letter from OTF/FEO inviting all teacher members to complete the anonymous survey available at www.surveymonkey.com/tva. The confidential 20 minute survey will be live until March 19, 2010. OSSTF encourages all teacher members to complete the survey as frankly as possible. Your input will provide important information that will help OSSTF in its advocacy role on issues related to credit integrity and assessment, evaluation, and reporting (AE&R) initiatives from the Ministry and Boards.

International Teaching Opportunity

Teachers are required in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for July 2010 in the following subject areas: Science, English, Mathematics, Social Science, and Business. You must be a member or eligible to qualify as a member of the Ontario College of Teachers and have 2 or more years of teaching or related experience. Visit <http://www.taylors.edu.my/> or <http://www.educaninternational.ca/> or email resumes/questions to wpines@idirect.com.

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 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.

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.

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 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 March 22nd.

The Question: What is the deadline at HR for applications for reduction in teaching time?

Congratulations to Jennifer Palmer of BCI, our February winner.

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)

Calendar of Events

March

12-15: AMPA
13-21: March Break
21 - Anti-Racism Day
27 – OTIP Retirement Workshop (Kingston-Eng) (Cornwall-Fr)

April

2, 5- Holidays
6 – OSSTF Pension/Retirement Workshop (Cornwall Best Western)
7- OSSTF Pension/Retirement Workshop (SFDCI Library)
7- Services Review Committee
8- TBU & PSSP Exec Meeting
13- District Executive Meeting
15 - TBU CBC meeting
17- OTIP Retirement Workshop (Ottawa-Fr)
21 - Administrative Professionals' Day
28 - Workers' Day of Mourning



OSSTF present several awards each year. Read about them and email us if you know of a deserving colleague.
[Details at osstf26.com, "Awards & Bursaries" Quick Links]

Bob Brooks Award (April 2)

Norm Snyder Award (April 9)

Federation Family Bursary (April 30)

Provincial Executive Award (April 30)

Canada Post Literacy Awards (May 25)

Lincoln Alexander Award (June 2)

Workers H&S Center Scholarship (June 6)

OTIP Student Bursary (June 15)

OFL Labour Honour Roll Scholarship (June 30)



OSSTF District 26 represents approximately 1000 Teachers, Occasional Teachers and PSSP members

OSSTF serves approximately 60,000 members in 140 Bargaining Units across Ontario

