

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

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 the Occasional Teacher and PSSP menus.

### **Vision Care Benefit Error - Teachers**

Due to a Board error, members who submitted Vision Care expenses for the month of September 2009 may not have been correctly reimbursed by Sun Life. The benefit increase from \$275/24mth to \$375/24mth was not implemented on September 1, 2009 but has since been corrected. Sun Life has agreed to review the claims submitted as of Sept 1, 2009 and will mail out cheques to those affected.

Also, the Board has corrected the Laser Eye coverage to \$2000/lifetime without a maximum per year.

### **Took Courses to Upgrade your Category (Group)?**

Members who have recently completed courses to upgrade their category (group) must ensure they apply to OSSTF Certification Dept. for a new Rating Statement and advise the Board they have done so. Detailed information at <http://www.osstf26.com/>, then link to *Certification, Experience, & Pay* link in the Teacher's menu.

### **PD Notes**

All secondary OSSTF teachers are eligible for a one-time Professional Development amount of \$400.00 in the 2009-2010 school year. Pre-approval must be sought before the event from the SPDF Committee. Note: there are limited funds available for semester 1 activities. Guidelines and application forms are available at <http://www.osstf26.com/teachers/PD forms/PD.htm>

### **November School Visits**

The three District 26 release officers are planning school visits in the month of November. These visits are a perfect opportunity to direct questions, concerns, or issues. More details will follow.

### **Sick Leave Credits**

Members should verify their sick day allocation/deduction on "Self-Serve" through *Insite* and print the statement for their records. Issues should be raised with administration. Please note the number of sick days allocated for this year is based on your yearly FTE status.

### **Are You being Paid Correctly?**

Please review your pay advice to ensure that you have been credited with the proper experience and are being paid at the correct level.

### **H1N1 Information**

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has recently issued a guideline for the prevention and management of pandemic (H1N1) influenza. The guideline is available at: [www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/archives/hu\\_09/provi der/sf\\_docs/school\\_guidelines\\_20090828.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/archives/hu_09/provi der/sf_docs/school_guidelines_20090828.pdf). You are encouraged to monitor the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care websites for new information at: [www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/archives/hu\\_09/publi c/default.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/archives/hu_09/publi c/default.html) or [www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/ua\\_h1n1flu.html](http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/ua_h1n1flu.html)

### **Region 5 Symposium**

This year's Region 5 Symposium will be held on Friday, November 6, 2009 at The Travelodge Ottawa Hotel & Conference Centre, 1376 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 7L5. Members from all OSSTF bargaining units are invited to attend this event. The 2009-2010 symposium will feature Lee-Anne McAlear, the Program Director of Schulich's Centre of Excellence in Innovation Management at York University. She will share her perspectives on viewing change as an essential element of life and an opportunity for self-motivation and innovation. A thorough examination of the art and science of change will help members develop strategies for managing change in their personal and professional lives. Registration will be on a first come, first served basis. The deadline to register is October 23, 2009. Registration details and registration forms are available on the OSSTF website, <http://www.osstf.on.ca/region5symposium>.

### **Marion Drysdale Awards**

The topic for this year's Marion Drysdale Awards is "**Suppress Excess: Living within our means**". Are you a conscientious consumer? Do you shop responsibly? Living within our means requires looking outward: buy what you need as opposed to what you want; consider going back to the basics. This can be achieved by avoiding disposable technology and thinking about sustainability. We should be buying locally, reducing waste, and assessing our material values. *It is time to wake up and smell the local produce.*

*Sponsoring teachers:* Please select one entry per category and submit to your OSSTF branch steward. Up to eight winners (one in each category) can be selected per district. Submit your school entries to the district office no later than Nov. 13, 2009. Visit <http://www.osstf.on.ca/studentachievementawards?cat=services>

### **AMPA 2010 Video proposals process**

As a celebration of OSSTF's 90th Anniversary, as a strategy to engage all members, and as a way to encourage involvement and activism, the Provincial Executive has approved a new approach to the AMPA video. On a trial basis for this year, the AMPA 2010 Video will be made by the members for the members. The Provincial Executive invites all interested members or groups of members to submit a detailed proposal for the creation of the AMPA 2010 Video by October 29, 2009. Email [danny@osstf26.com](mailto:danny@osstf26.com) for more details if interested.

### **New Member Engagement and Training Workgroup**

The September edition of "Update" includes a call for members under 30 to consider applying to this workgroup. Interested members will be directed to the OSSTF Provincial Website, which will include a link on the front page to a user-friendly application. Applications received by OSSTF will then be relayed to Bargaining Unit Presidents for their recommendations to the Provincial Executive. The deadline for members to apply to the workgroup is October 23.

**PSAC Strike at Museums**

The Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), which represents museum workers at the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the War Museum, has been on strike since September 21. OSSTF members are advised to make field trip bookings to the Canadian Museum of Civilization or War Museum with caution. You are advised to refrain from crossing a picket line should either museum remain open during the strike. You may wish to delay confirming field trips until labour peace is achieved or you may wish to make bookings conditional on the fact that there is no longer a strike. It is advised that you inform your principal if the strike might interfere with a field trip that has already been booked. Please contact Danny Thomas at the District 26 Office (1-877-826-7783) if you have any questions or concerns. For more information on the strike, go to the PSAC website at: [http://www.psac-ncr.com/neg/civilisations\\_home\\_accueil-e.htm](http://www.psac-ncr.com/neg/civilisations_home_accueil-e.htm)

**Part-time Teachers - Benefits Information**

Are you a part-time teacher (0.5 FTE or more)? The Employer should have asked if you would like to participate in full coverage of benefits. The Employer would have also indicated the expected teacher's portion of contribution to premiums.

Note: a part-time teacher whose yearly employment status is 0.5 and is **assigned in one semester only**, shall have 100% of the benefits premiums paid by the Employer during the semester the teacher is active. The members shall have the option of maintaining benefit coverage in the remainder of the year at their sole expense. The teacher will remit to the Employer, on a monthly basis, the following month's premium to cover this period.

**French Language Committee Award of Merit - 2009**

This award recognizes an OSSTF member who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in contributing to the growth and the promotion of the French Language in the workplace and/or in the Union and/or in the community. Please submit your nomination no later than Nov 13, 2009. More details at <http://www.osstf.on.ca/Default.aspx?DN=b1b16817-108b-4296-b303-233cc688f880>

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

The TLLP is an annual project-based professional learning opportunity for experienced classroom teachers. The program funds proposals from classroom teachers who wish to enhance and/or share their classroom expertise with colleagues. The goal of the program is to provide an opportunity for teachers to engage in advanced professional learning of their choice and to share their learning with other teachers across the province. Interested teachers should go to <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teacher/tllp.html> for more information about submitting proposals

**HR Council's National Survey**

The HR Council for the Voluntary and Non - Profit Sector has invited OSSTF/FEESO members to participate in its national survey of private and public sector employees aged 45+ and retired persons, to assess their potential interest in transitioning to late career paid employment in the non-profit sector. The survey results will assess awareness of jobs and careers in the non-profit sector and factors that influence a decision to work in the sector. The on-line survey was posted shortly after Labour Day, is completely confidential, and is available in both English and French. Questions about the survey or its confidentiality will be answered by calling 1-800-363-0832 during the work day. To complete the survey, please visit [www.surveycentral.ca/npvs/survey.htm](http://www.surveycentral.ca/npvs/survey.htm).

**Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence**

The Ontario Government has launched its fourth year of the Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence to recognize outstanding teachers and education support staff who motivate, support and inspire Ontario's students across the province. Award categories include: Teacher of the Year, New Teacher of the Year, Excellent Support Staff, Excellence in Leadership, Lifetime Achievement, and Team of the Year. Since the awards were launched in 2006-07, more than 3,000 nominations have been received and over 50 educators and support staff have been recognized—many of whom have been OSSTF/FEESO members. The deadline for applications is February 1, 2010. Nomination information can be downloaded from the Ministry website at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/teachingawards/howtonominate.html>

**CLASS CAPS and "Max + 3"  
are in effect as of September 21, 2009  
(excludes 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 Sept 21, 2009 to the end of the semester.

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.).

**International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – Oct 17**

*Make Poverty History* National Day of Action is a campaign to demand that world leaders take meaningful action to end poverty now. For more information or to purchase a white wristband visit <http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca/>.

**Calendar of Events**

**October**

- 12- Holiday
- 15- H & S Committee
- 17 - International Day for Eradication of Poverty
- 20 - TBU Exec
- 22- PSSP Exec
- 27 - National School Library Day
- 29- District Executive

**November**

- 11- Remembrance Day
- 12- Wellness Committee; Services Review Committee
- 19- TBU CBC meeting
- 20 - PD Workshop (Ed Services)
- 20 - PA Day
- 25 - Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women

