

**A Message from District 26**

We hope all our members had a restful summer vacation. On behalf of District 26 Office and elected representatives, we would like to welcome everyone back and welcome to all new members. Members can reach their three OSSTF Officers, Rick Zeilstra, Danny Thomas or Rob Shaheen at the District Office, by email, or by cell phone.

**New Salary, Wage, Allowance Rates**

Please ensure that you are being paid correctly as per your respective collective agreements. All salary, wage rates, and allowances have increased as of Sept 1, 2010. Review your pay on-line using *SelfServe* on Insite.

Teachers should also ensure that experience from the 09-10 school year has been properly credited. Specifically,

- Members returning from Pregnancy or Parental Leave do not lose experience for the time they were on such leaves (limited to the 17 weeks pregnancy leave and 35 week parental leave)
- Part-time teachers must ensure the appropriate amount of time has been credited, including a part-time teacher who obtains an additional assignment as a long-term occasional teacher in the secondary panel of the Employer
- Remember: actual teaching experience is first added together and the result is rounded!

**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 should also visit the website and peruse the wealth of information under the Occasional Teacher menu.

**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/>, and link to *Certification, Experience, & Pay* link in the Teacher's menu.

**Public Sector Compensation Restraint To Protect Public Services Act, 2010**

Over the summer the OSSTF Provincial Executive and staff have been in meetings with the Ontario Government as well as other unions regarding the "Public Sector Compensation Restraint To Protect Public Services Act, 2010". This is the government's plan to address the provincial deficit. Part of the plan includes a freeze on public employee compensation after our current collective agreements expire. OSSTF/FEESO is scheduled to begin a consultation process with the government on Monday, September 20, 2010.

**OSSTF Tools & Toys Technology in Education Conference**

OSSTF is presenting this conference Oct. 28-29, 2010 in Toronto. Full conference information can be found at [www.osstf.on.ca/tools-and-toys](http://www.osstf.on.ca/tools-and-toys). Brochures have also been mailed out to all work locations. Delegates are responsible for their own travel arrangements and hotel accommodations. A special conference rate of \$125.00 has been arranged for delegates booking by Oct. 1, 2010. Expenses are eligible for \$500 funding and one release day coverage through the District 26 SPDF Funds for the first 10 applicants, maximum two per school. SPDF applications for individual conferences and guidelines can be found at [www.osstf26.com](http://www.osstf26.com).

**September 25 is Franco-Ontarian Day**

Franco-Ontarian Day will be celebrated annually on September 25 and the Provincial Executive has approved the planting of a tree at Provincial Office to commemorate this inaugural celebration. In addition, the Franco-Ontarian flag will be flown at Provincial Office on September 25. OSSTF has approximately 5000 Franco-Ontarian members.

**CLASS CAPS and "Max + 3"  
are in effect as of September 20, 2010  
(excludes Adult/Alternative schools)**

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

**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/>.

**French Language Committee Award of Merit - 2010**

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 Oct 22, 2010. More details at <http://www.osstf.on.ca/Default.aspx?DN=b1b16817-108b-4296-b303-233cc688f880>

**World Teachers' Day - Oct 5**

On World Teachers' Day hundreds of thousands of students, parents and activists around the world will pay homage to all teachers who have been directly or indirectly affected by a major crisis.

Be it a humanitarian crisis, such as the earthquake in Haiti and China, or the global economic crisis that has devastated many developed economies over the past year, the role of teachers and other education personnel is vital to social, economic and intellectual rebuilding. Recovery begins with teachers! All those who are fighting to provide quality education to children of the world can join teachers and their representative organizations to celebrate the profession and show them their support. For further information, visit <http://www.5oct.org/>

**PD Notes**

All secondary OSSTF teachers are eligible for a one-time Professional Development amount of \$500.00 in the 2010-2011 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>

**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, 2011 and will be approved on a first-come first-served basis as limited funds are available.

**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.

**~ 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 4 PM on Sept 13, 2010.

**The Question:** At what OSSTF web address can your collective agreement be found?

Congratulations to Kim Durant-Squires, our June winner!

**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.

**TEACHERS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

**What can I be assigned as workload?** All full-time teachers, regardless of their assignment or school, are assigned 6 of 8 periods (no more than 3 periods per semester unless there is mutual agreement between the Principal, Teacher, and Bargaining Unit), plus Alternative Professional Assignments (APAs). APAs are supervision, on-calls, student mentoring and teacher mentoring. Part-time teachers have prorated workloads.

**I teach in an MSIP school – is there a limit on the number of students in an MSIP period?** MSIP periods are capped at **31** students. This would include registered students plus students entering your MSIP from another MSIP. Advise your Branch Steward immediately if there are issues.

**Why must I keep track of MSIP and APA assignments?** The collective agreement is clear as to the number of MSIP assignments and APA (supervision, on-call, student/teacher mentoring) that must be done in a semester or school year. Members are not obligated, and should not, do more than they are supposed to do. Keep track of these assignments using the *Tally* Sheet provided by OSSTF. Advise your Branch Steward immediately is you are approaching your limits.

**Are Supervisions and On-calls limited per week?** YES. A teacher should have no more than 1 half-period of supervision and on-call per day. On mutual consent, a teacher may have 2 half-periods of on-calls in one day, or a half-period each of an on-call and supervision in one day. No teacher shall have more than 2 half-periods of supervisions and on-calls per week. Supervisions and On-calls are assigned in half-period increments (37.5 minutes non-MSIP schools, 30 minutes MSIP schools). No more than 60% of APA assignments can be given as on-calls.

**How many unassigned periods am I guaranteed in a 5-day workweek?** All teachers are guaranteed at least 4 unassigned periods per a 5-day workweek, free from assigned duties (assigned duties are classes, guidance, library, Spec. Ed., APAs). These unassigned periods are for preparation, marking, and related professional duties. This does not include your 40-minute lunch.

**What about Lunch?** Each Teacher shall have a scheduled interval between classes for a lunch break, which shall be not less than forty (40) consecutive minutes every day between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in schools where the first instructional period normally begins prior to 8:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. otherwise. It shall be free of any assigned duties. This 40-minutes excludes 5 minutes prior to the commencement of the period after lunch.

**Must I give consent, in writing, to be assigned periods below the Grade 9 level (Mixed schools) or to be assigned more than 2 half-credit assignments per year?** YES. Read article 13.01.02 and 13.11 in the Collective Agreement.

**Calendar of Events**

**September**

- 14- TBU Council & CBC Training
- 16 - PSSP Exec
- 21- Ed Services
- 23 - TBU Exec
- 28- CPAC
- 30- District Executive

**October**

- 5 - World Teachers' Day
- 5 - OTBU Exec
- 7- H & S Committee
- 11- Holiday
- 17 - International Day for Eradication of Poverty
- 21- TBU & PSSP Exec
- 27 - National School Library Day
- 28- District Executive



OSSTF members are also members of Edvantage, a rewards program offered exclusively to Ontario's Education Community! Visit [www.osstf26.com](http://www.osstf26.com). Get exciting savings and discounts with **Bell Mobility, CC Tickets, GoodLife, OTIP, The Brick, Electronics for Less, Edvantage Long Distance, Edvantage Mosaik MasterCard ...And more!**

