

**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 or by email, or 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, 2011. Review your pay on-line using *SelfServe* on Insite.

Teachers should also ensure that experience from the 10-11 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 and PSSPs 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.

**Casual and Long-term Occasional Teachers**

A new call out system (UCARRIS) is being implemented as of September. Training sessions occurred through the summer and will again be offered throughout the year. All members **MUST** register by telephone in order to receive calls for work. If you are experiencing any difficulties that remain unresolved please call the District Office 1-877-826-7783 or [dina@osstf26.com](mailto:dina@osstf26.com).

The Occasional PD fund offers up to \$300 per Occasional member per school year for activities such as conferences, courses, job shadowing. For more information, visit <http://www.osstf26.com/occasionals/PD%20for%20OTBU.htm>.

**Secondary PD Fund**

The first meeting of the Secondary PD Fund Committee is Oct 14. TBU members are encouraged to submit applications for funding. Up to \$500 and 1 day of Occasional Teacher costs can be requested for PD expenses. Information and forms are on [www.osstf26.com](http://www.osstf26.com).

**September 25 is Franco-Ontarian Day**

Franco-Ontarian Day is celebrated annually on September. OSSTF has approximately 5000 Franco-Ontarian members.

**Financial Planning and Retirement**

Educators Financial Group invites OSSTF members to attend a free online webinar on Sept. 28 at 7 pm. This 45-minute long webinar entitled "Your OTTP Pension: How does OTTP fit within your overall financial plan?" is presented in partnership with OTTP. If you would like to register please follow the link: [www1.gotomeeting.com/register/208144928](http://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/208144928). Educators Financial Group (previously OTG) was established in 1975 by OSSTF and currently manages more than \$675 million in assets for 19,000+ members of the education community.

**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/>.

**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/>

**Media Violence Conference**

*When Violence Becomes Entertaining* is a forum that provides an opportunity for teachers to be joined by parents, trustees, administrators, support staff, psychologists, social workers, guidance counselors and others with a particular interest in the impact of violent media on children and adolescents. Leading experts in the field will discuss current issues and strategies in the area of media violence. The conference is hosted by major provincial networks of trustees, educators, parents and students. Registration will open Sept 1, 2011. **Date and Location:** Oct 20-21, 2011, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario, London. **Registration fee:** \$250. For more information contact Maria Callaghan at: [mcallag@uwo.ca](mailto:mcallag@uwo.ca)

**CLASS CAPS and "Max + 3"**  
**are in effect as of September 20, 2011**  
(excludes Adult/Alternative schools and on-line courses...these are in effect as of the Sept 1)

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

### **French Language Committee Award of Merit - 2011**

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 4, 2011. More details at <http://www.osstf.on.ca/Default.aspx?DN=b1b16817-108b-4296-b303-233cc688f880>

### **OSSTF Wellness Symposia**

Two great workshops on one day! *Keys to Financial Wellness* and *Stress Management Through Humour* will be presented in Ottawa on Nov 15, 2011. Registration is free. (A \$100 deposit will be requested which will be reimbursed upon attendance.) Members may apply to the PD fund (teacher or occasional teacher). Further registration details to be announced.

### **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.

### **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.

### **OTIP Login Change**

OSSTF members have access to our LTD plan through a secure website. The login information has changed effective Sept 1, 2011. If you require access to this site please contact the District Office.

### **Sunlife E-Claims**

Members are reminded that they can register for e-claims at <https://www.sunnet.sunlife.com/Registration/involvement.wca?lob=GB>. You will require our contract number (025246) and your employee number (without the UC). Claims filed on-line are often reimbursed by Sunlife within 24 hours of filing.

### **Sunlife Claims Deadline**

Our benefit year for extended health and dental coverage is Sept 1 – Aug 31 of each year. All claims must be received by Sunlife within 90 days of the end of the benefit year. Claims not received by Nov 29, 2011 will not be reimbursed.

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

All D26 OSSTF members are invited enter a draw for a \$25 gift card from Chapters. Simply email your name and bargaining unit to [office@osstf26.com](mailto:office@osstf26.com) with the words "Info Letter Draw" in the subject line. Deadline for entries is 4 PM on Sept. 16, 2011.

**Congratulations to Christine Must, our June winner!**

### **Calendar of Events**

September	October
14 - OTBU Exec/Council	6- Ed Services
15- CPAC	10- Holiday
22 - PSSP Exec	13- H & S Committee
22 - TBU Exec	14- SPDF Committee
29- District Executive	20 - PSSP Exec, TBU Exec
	25- District Executive
	27 - OTBU CBC; TBU CBC
	28 – PD Day



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!**

### **TEACHERS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

**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.

**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. Keep track of these assignments using the *Tally* Sheet provided by OSSTF.

**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).

**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.

**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.

