

Bulletin



Halton Secondary Teachers' Executive for 2016-2017

Halton Secondary Teachers' Executive for 2016-2017 as elected at the Annual Assembly on April 19th. From left to right: Kelly McCarthy, Treasurer, Rod Whate, Vice-President, Stephanie Briggs, Communications Coordinator, Janet Scott, Educational Services Officer, Brad Fisher, President and Colin Post, Vice-President.



Bob Smith Outstanding Service Award

Victor Disyak is this year's winner of the Bob Smith Award. Before his retirement, Victor served as Bateman Branch President, Vice-Chair of Council, TBU Assembly Delegate, AMPA Delegate, Hiring and Rights and Equity Committee member and as Chair of Finance. His support of unionism runs deep and has served the membership well.

COURT RULES BILL 115 VIOLATED CHARTER OF RIGHTS & FREEDOMS

OSSTF/FEESO Queen's Park Notes: In a major victory for Canada's labour movement, Justice Thomas R. Lederer of the Ontario Superior Court ruled that [Bill 115, Putting Students First Act](#), violated collective bargaining rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The controversial bill was enacted in 2012 and portrayed by the Ontario Liberals as necessary to help right the province's economic situation. Former Premier Dalton McGuinty and his Education Minister, Laurel Broten, insisted at the time that Bill 115 was within the province's constitutional prerogative.

But, Justice Lederer disagreed saying, "The problem with what took place is with the process, not the end result. It is possible that had the process been one that properly respected the associational rights of the unions, the fiscal and economic impacts of the result would have been the same or similar to those that occurred."

OSSTF/FEESO President [Paul Elliott said](#), "We are pleased that the Court has reconfirmed the importance of free, fair and meaningful collective bargaining."

In his judgement, Justice Lederer directed the government and unions to find a remedy. If they are unable to, they may ask him for his opinion.

The day after the ruling, NDP Leader [Andrea Horwath \(Hamilton-Centre\) asked](#) Premier Kathleen Wynne, "My next question is also for the Premier. Courts have ruled that the Liberal government violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms with Bill 115. Will this Premier take this opportunity to apologize to parents, students and education workers for trampling on collective bargaining rights and throwing our schools into chaos?"

[Wynne replied](#), "The decision is being reviewed, obviously. It has just come down. When I ran for leadership in 2012-13, I was very clear that I had problems with Bill 115. Bill 115 has been repealed. We have established a new bargaining process. We are working with the education sector. I believe that the move away from Bill 115 was exactly the right thing to do."

The judgement now presents a huge political and economic dilemma for the Kathleen Wynne government. The Liberals have heavily relied on the more than billion dollars they cut from education workers' contracts to help balance the provincial budgets.

The Liberals have not yet decided if they will appeal this decision to the Supreme Court of Canada or attempt to seek a remedy with the affected unions. How they now proceed will definitely contribute to the tone and substance of future negotiations.

OSSTF/FEESO Teachers begin full withdrawal of services

Members of the Teachers and Occasional Teachers Bargaining Units in District 5B, Rainy River, will be implementing a full withdrawal of services for one day per week commencing Wednesday, April 27, 2016.

The teachers and occasional teachers have now been attempting to negotiate local collective agreements since April 2015, but over that entire year the Rainy River District School Board has agreed to only 11 days of bargaining.

The Bargaining Units began a selective withdrawal of services on December 9, 2015, and this week announced the one-day-per-week full work stoppage.

Striking members will receive the standard OSSTF/FEESO strike pay of \$55 per day for those days when the full withdrawal is in effect.



Post-Secondary Scholarship Program

Applications must be submitted by August 31, 2016

For many Canadian students, the jump from high school to post-secondary education is a thrilling transition into adulthood, but one that comes with new financial responsibilities.

Since 1998, Johnson has awarded over 1500 scholarships valued at more than \$1 million to support young Canadians coast to coast in pursuing their post-secondary education.

This year, we are pleased to offer 50 scholarships worth \$1000 each to students who have an auto or home policy through Johnson (or their parent/guardian or grandparent), or have a parent or grandparent who is a member/employee of a Johnson sponsor/client group, or who are children and grandchildren of Johnson employees.

Students must have completed high school in 2016 and must be beginning post-secondary education this fall.

Applications for the Scholarship Program will be open starting **April 1st, 2016**. Completed application forms must be submitted by **August 31st, 2016** and must contain an official school transcript of final year credits.

For more information, or to apply for a Johnson Inc. scholarship, please call or visit 1.866.544.2673 | johnson.ca/scholarship.

3rd Annual Mentorship Awards nominations now being accepted

The District 20 Teachers' Bargaining Unit will annually recognize mentors with an award at the President's Celebration Dinner in June. This year's venue is the Holiday Inn Burlington Banquet Centre.

An essential part of the teaching profession is the ability and willingness of so many teachers to become mentors to their colleagues on a voluntary basis. True mentoring is more about an ongoing relationship of learning, dialogue, and challenge.

To be eligible, the nominator and nominee must be members of the District 20 Teachers' Bargaining Unit. The mentorship must have taken place in the current school year.

Members of District 20 TBU can nominate another member as deserving of recognition for their mentorship on or before May 20th by writing a letter to TBU President Brad Fisher outlining the reasons why the nominee should be recognized.

OSSTF Maternity/Parenting Workshop

Thursday May 5, 2016
4:30 PM to 5:30 PM

980 Fraser Drive, Burlington ON
Unit 211

Please contact Lorie Wiersma to RSVP at:

wiersmal@osstfd20.ca
or by calling 905-332-1228.

Halton Secondary Teachers

Brad Fisher, President
Jim Young, Member Protection Officer
John Watson, Health and Benefits Officer
Lorie Wiersma, Executive Assistant

Phone: (905) 332-1228 Fax: (905) 335-9220
www.osstfd20.ca