

Teachers'

# Bulletin

[www.osstfd20.ca](http://www.osstfd20.ca)

905-332-1228



Sid Ryan, OFL President and Cindy Gage, TBU Vice President at the recent OFL Convention. Also in attendance was Colin Post, TBU Vice President.

## Maternity Top-Up Renegotiated Monetary Gain Substantial

The District Office has renegotiated the Supplemental Employment Benefits (SEB) calculation for maternity and adoptive leave.

The Letter of Understanding with the board changes the rate of daily salary used in calculating SEB from 1/365 to 1/194 of gross salary effective September 1, 2013.

Assuming a salary of \$80,000 the change in calculation will increase SEB for our members on maternity by \$4,220.87.

Your union dollars hard at work!



## Interested in LTO Sections?

**TBU and HSOT members welcome!**

An OSSTF Information Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 14, 2014 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. (location to be announced)

**The location will be posted on CHATT in the Occasional Secondary Teachers folder.**

**Topics to be covered will include:**

**How HARRI works;** 2/3 day jobs, contract expectations, disciplinary letters, LTO list & what happens next, *plus other information to help you with HARRI & the vacancy job process.*

**Regulation 274:** An update on LTO hiring in Halton; expectations for Provincial Negotiations, limitations and applications for all members.

**PD for members;** Personal PD Opportunity Plan for all members:

- Getting ready for interviews
- Staying current in today's classrooms

\*Please **RSVP** by December 19th - if you are attending, we must plan for venue size and food.

Please send your response to: [wiersmal@osstfd20.ca](mailto:wiersmal@osstfd20.ca)

## Education Platform Launched Calls for Secular Public Education

**TORONTO, ON - Dec 05 2013** — The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) officially launched its public education platform today at a press conference held in Toronto at Queen's Park. The platform, entitled *Public Education—Investing in Ontario*, outlines OSSTF/FEESO's vision for publicly-funded education in the province.

The OSSTF/FEESO platform includes a call for the creation of two secular public education systems—one in English and one in French

"We have clearly heard from education stakeholders that public education is an investment that creates social and economic benefits for all citizens," said OSSTF/FEESO President Paul Elliott. "Our plan encourages further investments in public education at all levels, including elementary, secondary and post-secondary."

**Great Social Equalizer – see page 2**

## Great Social Equalizer – from page 1

“Public education is the great social equalizer,” continued Elliott. “A properly funded system gives equal access to an education for all, regardless of income, ethnic background or beliefs. Our plan calls for greater accessibility to an education for all citizens, including at our post-secondary institutions.”

The OSSTF/FEESO education platform has six major themes, which include:

- Enhanced funding for public education at all levels
- Preserving schools as community hubs
- Enable all students to have access to a broad range of learning opportunities
- Healthier and safer schools for students and education workers
- Dedicated and consistent funding for post-secondary education
- Moving to create two secular public education systems—one in English and one in French

Elliott continued by stating, “Public education cannot be regarded as just another budget line to be cut. Investments in the public education system benefit every Ontarian by creating a well-educated and skilled workforce for the 21st century.”

“OSSTF/FEESO calls upon all political parties to review our education platform. It is a culmination of feedback from many education stakeholders who seek to improve our publicly-funded education system for our children and students, including the 60,000 teachers and support staff of OSSTF/FEESO who work with our students every day,” concluded Elliott.

**Update!**

## VLAP, ERIP, and Unpaid Days

December 20 is an unpaid day for all teachers. Any teachers who use fewer than six sick days over the school year will be reimbursed for this day on one of the July/August pays.

At this point, it is virtually certain that March 7 will also be an unpaid day (with no possibility for reimbursement). As of November 7, VLAP had generated a bit less than 25% of the savings necessary to convert March 7 to a paid day. A small handful of ERIP retirements have so far come in for January 31.

However, it’s important to note that the terms of the Memo of Understanding prevent the Board from making a definitive statement on the status of March 7 until the end of semester 1.

Teachers who want March 7 off and who are absolutely, 100% risk-averse should apply for a VLAP day on that day. That way you’re guaranteed to have the day off. If, as expected, the day is unpaid, you would then be offered the option of using the VLAP day later in the school year, but you would not be required to use it.

## OSSTF District 20 Teachers

3410 South Service Road, Burlington L7N 3T2

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

Phone: (905) 332-1228

Fax: (905) 335-9220

[www.osstfd20.ca](http://www.osstfd20.ca)

## Retirement Series 2013-2014

### OTIP: Walk into Retirement

The Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan is offering their retirement workshop on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 4:30 PM at the OSSTF District 20 Office. Dinner will be provided. This session is limited to 30 participants, spouses are welcome to attend. OTIP will address extended health and dental benefits for retiring teachers.

### OSSTF:

Please join us for Halton Secondary Teachers’ Retirement Workshop on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 6:30-9:30 PM, in the MM Robinson Theatre. The workshop provides information on the retirement process specific to teachers in Halton, as well as an extensive presentation on retirement planning by a provincial OSSTF pension/retirement expert.

### Educators Financial: Walking Into Retirement

Back by popular demand, Educators Financial is offering the retirement planning session on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 PM at the OSSTF District 20 Office. Dinner will be provided.

This session is limited to 30 participants, spouses are welcome to attend. Educators Financial will present information and updates on changes to CPP, OAS and OTPP that will impact your retirement planning, AND, it’s not just about the money!

Please RSVP to Lorie Wiersma, 905-332-1228 or via CHATT. **For more workshop information please email Janet Scott, Educational Services Officer, OSSTF District 20, [scottj@osstfd20.ca](mailto:scottj@osstfd20.ca).**