



District 20 Teachers at OFL Rally

Toronto police report that over 15,000 teachers, education workers, and labour unionists rallied at Allan Gardens and marched through the streets of Toronto to the Liberal Leadership Convention being held at Maple Leaf Gardens on Saturday January 26th.

Kathleen Wynne, the popular former Minister of Education, was elected the new leader of the Ontario Liberal Party.

Wynne-OSSTF Reopen Talks Broten Replaced by Liz Sandals Teacher Solidarity Keeps Wynne Focused

Kathleen Wynne has made it clear that she wants to rebuild relations with the Teachers' Union and restore extra-curriculars.

Wynne is to be sworn in as Premier today. One of her first cabinet changes will see Liz Sandals replace Laurel Broten as the Minister of Education. Sandals is a former school board trustee and served as president of the Ontario School Boards Association before being first elected MPP in Guelph in 2003. Premier Wynne will reconvene the Legislative Assembly on February 19th.

The Presidents and General Secretaries of the four union affiliates met on January 29th with Kathleen Wynne and two staff members from her office to initiate a dialogue about resolving current issues. The meeting lasted roughly 80 minutes, was productive and has led to OSSTF/FEESO engaging in future discussions.

At a meeting of OSSTF local Presidents and Chief Negotiators on February 7, the local leaders endorsed OSSTF reopening negotiations with the new government.

Unlike the previous government, Wynne is not negotiating in the press, so members will have to be patient for news releases from the OSSTF Provincial Executive.

For the time being, the OSSTF Provincial Executive's position on voluntary and extra-curricular activities remains unchanged.

Bill 115 Repeal Empty Gesture!

The repeal of Bill 115 by the outgoing Liberal regime on January 23 changed nothing concerning the imposition of terms into Teachers' contracts.

The Orders-in-Council issued by the Lieutenant-Governor are in force, and the imposition of terms into our contracts remains.

Provincial LTDI Imposed!

Projected Fee Increase for District 20 Teachers

The OECTA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government, and Bill 115, imposed upon all teacher groups a mandatory provincial LTDI plan.

LTDI—see page 2.

Provincial LTDI plan – from page 1.

Since 1985 enrollment in the District 20 Long Term Disability Insurance (LTDI) plan has been compulsory and therefore most members are already enrolled in the District 20 LTDI plan.

Prior to the new plan, members could opt out of the plan upon: turning 65 years of age; 30 years of credited service with OTPP and being eligible for a 60% unreduced pension; and submission of a retirement letter to the Board.

In other Districts, many bargaining units do not have mandatory enrollment. In many cases members were not protected by their plan and this placed the union in contravention of the legislation.

This necessitated the letter on January 14 from Provincial office to the membership indicating the need for mandatory enrollment in the provincial LTDI plan.

Some members who have been opted out of our plan as they met the criteria are now going to be re-enrolled in the plan as the parameters of the new plan have yet to be established.

The Provincial executive has struck an Ad Hoc committee for LTDI which met January 31 and is meeting February 7th in Toronto. By the end of those two meetings the new parameters will be established and those members who have been re-enrolled that meet the criteria will then be removed from the plan and any monies deducted will be reimbursed to the members. While this is inconvenient, there is currently no other method to ensure that the union is compliant with the legislation imposed by the government.

It is important to note the following:

- a. The plan is owned and administered by the union – thus contacting the Board is of no value as they cannot remove you from the plan or decide if you are not to be re-enrolled.
- b. At present only members who are reaching or have reached the age of 65 will not be re-enrolled in the plan.

The District Office will communicate to all members once the plan has been finalized and the process to un-enroll has been finalized. At that point we will start the process of removing individuals from the plan. We have no indication of a specific timeline for this process, but it is hoped that this will all be finalized in the next few weeks.

Should you have questions please direct them to John Watson at District 20 office (905 – 332 –

1228) or by email john@jwatson.ca.

Thanks in advance for your understanding of this imposed change.

John Watson, TBU Health and Benefits Officer



OSSTF District 20 President Brad Fisher and Health and Benefits Officer John Watson were at the OFL Rally.

Teacher's Retirement Workshop

Thursday February 21, 2013
6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

M.M. Robinson Theatre
RRSP – Lorie Wiersma
905 332 1228
Wiersmal@osstfd20.ca

Maternity/Parenting Workshop

Thursday February 28th, 2013
4:00 pm to 5:15 pm

OSSTF District 20 Office
RRSP – Lorie Wiersma
905 332 1228
Wiersmal@osstfd20.ca

OSSTF District 20 Teachers

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

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