

Bulletin

Message from the President

"It's been a great ride!"



Well, as my old friend from Montana would say, "it's been a great ride."

Together we have weathered the rough years of Bill 115, the rallies and the sanctions that followed in 2011-2012, and again in the sanctions of 2015 precipitated by the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act.

For several years, the membership has experienced the turmoil of regional staffing surpluses and potential redundancies. We have emerged from these trials with a stronger staffing process.

As a bargaining unit, the Halton Secondary Teachers' Bargaining Unit is alive with committees, a fully engaged Executive and Council and has strong representation on provincial OSSTF committees and work groups. We have purchased, designed and built our own offices. We have built the capacity for renewed leadership.

I am confident in the future of our bargaining unit and the leadership within it. Our future is bright!

On a personal level I am now at the crossroads of work and retirement. The opportunity to follow a new path, time for my family and the 6 grandkids, and the pursuit of new adventures beckons.

My decision to retire on June 30, 2017 is bittersweet as I feel truly honoured to have served as your President these past 8 years.

Yours in Solidarity

*Brad Fisher, President
Halton Secondary Teachers
OSSTF District 20*

Ratification Vote Webinar Wednesday March 29, 2017

Prior to the in-school vote to be held Tuesday April 4th and Wednesday April 5th on the Contract Extension and the Bill 115 remedies, members are invited to participate in a webinar on Wednesday March 29, 2017, from 7 pm until 8:30 pm.

All District 20 members will be provided with a phone number and access code prior to that date. As well, there will be a link to a webpage which will allow them to follow a PowerPoint if they so wish.

Branch President Elections

Branch Presidents are elected for a two-year term. According to our Procedures, Branch President Elections will be held in odd numbered years in the following schools:

Abbey Park HS	MM Robinson HS
Acton DHS	New St Ed Centre
Aldershot HS	Robert Bateman HS
Gary Allan HS	TA Blakelock HS
Georgetown DHS	White Oaks SS

A school may have the following structure:

Option A: Branch President

Alternate (assists in the absence of the BP)

Option B: Co-Branch Presidents (2)

Gary Allan (a multi-site school) is allowed to elect/select work-site reps who work with the Branch President(s). -see Branch President Elections page 2

Presidential Election Coming Up!

The Halton Secondary Teachers' Bargaining Unit will be electing a new President for the two-year term commencing on July 1, 2017.

The President is the chief executive officer and the official spokesperson for the TBU on all matters.

Election to the position of President will be by an in-school, all-member vote during the week of May 1-5. Ballots are counted and the results announced at the TBU Annual Assembly on May 9.

Nomination forms are now available in each school from your Branch President. The deadline for nominations is Monday, April 3, 2017 at 4:30 pm.

For further information on the nomination/campaign/election process and/or the position of President, contact Jim Young, TBU Staff Officer, at 905-332-1228 or by email at

Jim.Young@d20.osstf.ca.

Branch President Elections – from page 1

Timeline:

April

Each branch appoints a Branch Elections Committee of two, to seek nominations/candidates for the position of O.S.S.T.F. Branch President(s). Note: This committee can include any members of the branch who will not be candidates for the positions.

May

The elections for Branch President(s)/Alternate will be held in May.

The names of these candidates will be provided to staff at least 1 week prior to the election (nominations from the floor will be accepted).

Balloting will then take place as per the Annual T.B.U. Assembly model. (i.e. person with fewest votes is dropped from the next ballot)

The Branch Elections Committee will prepare the ballots and count the vote. The results will be announced by the Branch Elections Committee and forwarded to the District 20 Office prior to the June Council meeting.

OSSTF Long Term Disability Plan Qualifiers for coverage termination

You may qualify to cancel your long term disability (LTD) insurance if you meet one of the following criteria as set out by your insurance policy.

Scenario 1 - You are eligible for a 64% unreduced service pension, or you are within either the later of 80 working days, or the expiration of sick leave of being eligible for a 64% unreduced service pension.

Scenario 2 - You have notified both the Teachers' Pension Plan and your board of your scheduled retirement date, which is within 80 working days. Note, you are eligible for coverage under the OSSTF Provincial LTD Plan up to the date of your retirement. You are not required to cancel your coverage simply because you have notified your board of your intention to retire.

Scenario 3 - You have reached the end of the month in which you turned age 65 or you are within either the later of 80 working days, or the expiration of sick leave of reaching the end of the month in which you turn age 65. Based on the criteria listed above, if you wish to terminate your LTD coverage and discontinue your premium deductions, please complete an Application for Coverage Termination. Take note of the supporting documentation required in order to process your request.

Bob Smith Service Award

This award is to honour a member who has made a contribution to the Union over a long period of service to the Bargaining Unit or District.

Experience considered by the committee may include having served as Branch President, Executive member, Standing Committee member or member of a Provincial Standing Committee, AMPA representative, or workshop provider.

Nomination letters should be sent to Brad Fisher Brad.Fisher@d20.osstf.ca at the District Office.

The Executive of the Teacher Bargaining Unit will select the recipient from the nominations received by April 28th at 4 p.m.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATOR AWARD

In order to raise awareness, understanding, and appreciation of diversity, and to help eliminate bias, prejudice, stereotyping, discrimination and harassment related to race, ethnicity, language, gender, sexual orientation, or religion in Halton schools, this award is given to recognize and encourage a secondary teacher whose active participation in activities, events, and/or curriculum development at the board or school level have contributed to advancing these goals in Halton's schools.

The Inclusive Educator Award will be made at the Annual Teacher Bargaining Unit Assembly on April 19th. The award consists of a plaque, and \$500.

Nomination letters should be sent to Brad Fisher Brad.Fisher@d20.osstf.ca at the Halton Secondary Teachers' Office.

The TBU Executive will select the recipient from the nominations received by April 28th at 4 p.m.

4th Annual Mentorship Awards

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 19th at 4 p.m. by writing a letter to TBU President Brad Fisher Brad.Fisher@d20.osstf.ca outlining the reasons why the nominee should be recognized.