

Education Protected in McGuinty Budget

OSSTF, TORONTO

In its 2011 budget, the McGuinty Government again identified a strong, publicly funded education system as the key to Ontario's economic success.

The 2011 Ontario budget highlighted increased investments in mental health and addictions targeting children and youth, early childhood education and post secondary education

Ken Coran, President of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) commented that "the government also indicated that Ontario's publicly funded schools are best situated to provide the services needed to support Ontarians at all levels of their learning. These services are best delivered by front-line, school board employed teams of professionals who can assist all students, but especially the 1 in 5 students who need additional assistance and resources to stay in school and develop the knowledge, attitude, and skills they need to be successful."

"The additional \$44 million allocated over three years for literacy and basic skills programs will also provide the support to enable every Ontarian to build these important skills and make a contribution to our society and economic future," added Coran.

He also stated that "the creation of additional post secondary spaces for students is a welcome announcement, but part of that funding must be dedicated to the hiring of more personnel to meet the needs of the growing student population as well as support the institution."

"OSSTF/FEESO applauds the government for recognizing that our students are our future. Public education works for Ontario and a continued investment in the publicly funded education system lays the foundation for a bright future for all Ontarians," concluded Coran.

Bateman Teacher Appointed to Human Rights Committee

Michelle Patton, a Teacher at Robert Bateman High School, was appointed to the OSSTF Provincial Human Rights Committee for a 3 year term. Her appointment was confirmed by OSSTF Provincial Council on April 15, 2011.

Michelle is an active member on the District 20 Rights and Equity Committee, an OSSTF EQUIP Presenter, has been active as an organizer for the Halton Making the Change Conference, and with the Halton Gay Straight Alliance.

Her experience, passion and interest in Human Rights at local and global levels is evident in the following experiences: Children's Aid Case Manager- Orlando; Domestic Violence Group Facilitator-Hamilton; Orphanage Worker- Haiti, Guatemala, Mexico; High School Teacher- Egypt, Greece, Italy, England and Ireland and the City of Burlington Mundialization Committee.

Georgetown Teacher Receives Outstanding Service Award

Dave Laidlaw, the veteran Georgetown Branch President, is this year's winner of the Bob Smith Award for Outstanding Service which was presented at District Assembly April 26.

The award is presented annually to an OSSTF member who has given a great deal of time and energy to promote the interests of the union.

During his years of OSSTF service he has also been a member of the TBU Executive, a regular delegate to TBU and District Assemblies, a current member of the TBU Finance Committee and a regular Delegate to the OSSTF Provincial Assembly.

Dave is retiring at the end of this year.

Noteworthy Dates on the Critical Path

Teachers should note the following items and upcoming dates of importance from the Board's critical path:

- **May 9:** Internal Ad #2.
- **May 18:** Internal Ad #3.
- **May 27:** Internal Ad #4.
- **May 31:** Last day for surplus Teachers who have been placed in another secondary school to file a letter of right of first refusal to the school from which they were transferred.

EC Drury Teacher Awarded OSSTF Travelling Fellowship

Susan Robertson, a Teacher at EC Drury High School, has been awarded the Dr. S.G.B. Robinson Travelling Fellowship by the Provincial Executive.

Sarah's travel project to South Africa involving herself with the Strength Within Girls Group connects girls with the concept bringing girls together to share, learn and lead. Her goal is to give girls a voice, by sharing of opportunities and gaining greater global awareness.

The Dr. S.G.B. Robinson Travelling Fellowship was established in 1965 in recognition of the contribution made by Dr. Robinson in moulding OSSTF/FEESO through its formative years. Dr. Robinson, fondly known as "Steve," served on the Secretariat for twenty-four years as an Assistant Secretary and as General Secretary during the nineteen years prior to his retirement in 1964.

The Fellowship shall provide the opportunity for an OSSTF/FEESO member in good standing to travel for the purpose of serving education. It will not normally be awarded for studies toward a degree.

Don't Forget...

Teachers' Assembly, Tuesday May 10th

Galaxy Club, Oakville

Board Reacts to TBU Advisory

Admin Fine Protection May Be Extended to Teachers

The Halton District School Board has indicated that they are prepared to introduce an indemnity clause for Teachers-In-Charge (TIC's) similar to the one that Principals and Vice-Principals have had for some time.

The OSSTF Teachers' Bargaining Unit issued an advisory in April recommending that Teachers not volunteer or accept positions as Teachers-In-Charge (TIC's) while administrators are out of the school.

The Halton District School Board had confirmed on March 29 that they **would not pay** the Teacher's fine if a Teacher is fined by the fire department, police department or the Ministry of Labour, as a result of acting as a Teacher in Charge,

Staffing Process Places All Surplus Teachers

On April 6th, the union met with the Board to receive the staffing plans for the schools. Across the Board, 18 teachers were listed as potentially surplus to their schools. Of these, nine were full-time, three were owed four or five sections, and seven were owed three sections or fewer.

The TBU Staffing Committee met on April 7th to examine the plans. As a result of our discussions, the union requested a meeting with two principals on April 11th to get more information about the staffing/surplus situation at their respective schools. As of April 15th, 17 teachers were still surplus to their schools, requiring a total of 74 sections.

Internal ad #1, which appeared on April 15th, advertised a total of 204 vacant sections, so the prospects for placing all surplus teachers are very good.

All surplus teachers who were not successfully placed through the internal ad were placed on April 27th at the Surplus Placement meeting. The Top-Up ad for Part-Time teachers wishing to increase their assignment appeared on April 28th.

The union will continue to monitor the staffing process and work with the Board to find equitable solutions to staffing issues.

Pupil-Teacher Contact Limits Exceeded by 10 Teachers

For the 2010-11 school year, 10 teachers ended up with Pupil-Teacher Contact (PTC) loads over the allowable Article 18 maximum. In all but one case, the teachers are over the max by four students or fewer. Teachers who are over the maximum will be contacted by the Board and will be compensated with release time as per a Letter of Agreement dated May 31st, 2010 between the Board and the Union.

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