

Annual General Meeting Award Winners



Pearson Branch President Terry Vandebroek was awarded the 2015 Bob Smith Award for federation service. At the 2015 Annual General Meeting on May 12th. Terry is always willing to volunteer her time and energy to serve the Bargaining Unit and her Branch, Terry's conflict resolution, mediation, and diplomacy skills are well and have served the membership well.



Alison Carson, WOSS, was awarded the Inclusive Educator Award that is awarded 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.

Education Relations Commission to advise on school year jeopardy

Queen's Park Notes: After hinting the week before that she might seek the advice of the [Education Relations Commission](#) on when the school year might be in jeopardy, Education Minister Liz Sandals (Guelph) made a formal request to the Commission at the very end of the week.

In justifying her request, Sandals [said](#), "In light of this, we are increasingly concerned the ongoing local strikes in Durham, Rainbow and Peel district school boards may be putting the school year at risk. Therefore, we are seeking advice from the Education Relations Commission of Ontario as to whether the continuation of the strikes is placing the successful completion of courses of study by affected students in jeopardy."

At this point, it is unclear when the Commission will hold its hearing. If the ERC case is heard expeditiously and the Commission decides to declare the school year in jeopardy, the matter will be referred to Cabinet for a decision.

The Cabinet may then decide to pursue back-to-work legislation for striking teachers.

Even with the Liberals already declaring that the final two weeks of the Legislative session beginning on May 25 will have night sittings, it is unlikely that striking teachers would be forced to return to work before early June.

Boards pursue OLRB action to declare teachers' strikes illegal

Queen's Park Notes: The [Peel](#), [Rainbow](#) and [Durham](#) District School Boards have jointly [filed an action](#) with the Ontario Labour Relations Board seeking to declare their local teachers' strikes illegal. The three boards maintain that the issues publicized by the three local OSSTF/FEESO Teacher Bargaining Units are properly in the domain of central negotiations and not local negotiations. The three boards claim that striking teachers have been discussing central table items such as class size and teachers' professionalism.

Peel Board Chair Janet MacDougall [said](#), "We've seen secondary teachers in each of the three boards protest issues being negotiated at the central table, particularly the central matter of class size. Our teachers need to know, and our parents and students need to know, that there is nothing we can do at our local table to impact class size decisions—nothing."



TBU Executive 2015-2016

The TBU Executive 2015-2016 was elected at the May 12th Annual General Assembly. From the left: Vice-President Colin Post, Vice-President Ann MacDougall, President Brad Fisher, Communication Coordinator Rod Whate, and Educational Services Officer Janet Scott.

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The Boards’ also allege that OSSTF/FEESO is using local strikes to influence the central table. MacDougall added, “We’ve said, from the beginning, what we know is true: that provincial OSSTF/FEESO is setting the agenda for local bargaining and that this local strike is part of their overall provincial strategy.”

While making these allegations, the boards neglected to mention that OSSTF/FEESO had gone through the proper OLRB statutory procedures to secure a legal mandate for local strikes.

As well, it is peculiar that the boards waited until the 17th day of the Durham local strike to deem the strikes illegal. Finally, the Minister of Education has referred to the strikes as local on numerous occasions in her responses to questions in the Legislature. The OLRB’s decision is expected shortly.

Key Dates
Critical Path for Secondary Staffing

- June 4 Redundancy Placement meeting, if necessary. Union representatives will attend. (Location TBA) at 1:00pm
- June 9 Internal Ad - All permanent and probation teachers are eligible to apply including top up (review Redundancy list and right to recall)
- June 11 Close of Internal Ad

Maternity/ Parenting Workshop
 Thursday May 28, 2015
 4:15 PM
 OSSTF District 20 Office
 3410 South Service Road
 Burlington ON

Please contact Lorie Wiersma to confirm your attendance via CHATT or 905-332-1228

Denim and White Solidarity Day

OSSTF/FEESO District 20 Teachers expressing their solidarity with teachers in Durham, Rainbow and Peel and with the Administrative Sanctions in Halton and Ottawa that started on May 21st.



T. A. Blakelock High School



Abbey Park High School



Nelson High School

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 3410 South Service Road, Burlington L7N 3T2
 Brad Fisher, President
 Jim Young, Chief Negotiator
 John Watson, Health and Benefits Officer
 Lorie Wiersma, Executive Assistant

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