

Bulletin

Protecting Students Act

OSSTF cites "prejudicial effect"

BILL 37, PROTECTING STUDENTS ACT, COMPLETES COMMITTEE REVIEW, SENT FOR 3RD READING IN LEGISLATURE.

Queen's Park Notes - OSSTF/FEESO President Paul Elliott's [presentation](#) to the committee concentrated on some of OSSTF/FEESO's concerns with the proposed legislation including one regarding the publication of members' involvement in criminal proceedings. Elliott said, "That's one of the issues that we're talking about here: criminal proceedings that are also posted on anything which has yet to be proven. One of the things we find with this is that the prejudicial effect these postings have for innocent members is wide-ranging and is felt for years."

Another issue that Elliott spoke to was non-relevant criminal convictions. Elliott remarked, "We speak to some of those other ones—that these can needlessly harm excellent and long-serving teachers. These are convictions that can go back a number of years, that can go back to pot possession—historic convictions when members were teenagers or very young adults. These may have a discriminatory nature, especially when we get into the Human Rights Code."

Elliott's final concern centered on the definition of a suspension. He said, "This requires employers to report a member's conduct to the college when a member is terminated or when it imposes restrictions on the members. One of the things that we have listed there and is in the LeSage report—one of the things he makes very clear in it—is that the college must better define "restrictions on the member's duties" because it is far too broad, as it states."

OSSTF Observes Remembrance Day

OSSTF will be laying a wreath during the Remembrance Day Service on November 11th at the Burlington City Hall Cenotaph. Brad Fisher, President, Kelly McCarthy, Treasurer, Kim Darby, Retired Executive, and Jim Young, Staff Officer, will be in attendance.



Bonnie Cummings ODLC Award Winner

Bonnie Cummings, Oakville Trafalgar High School, was awarded the Health and Safety Activist Award at the Oakville District Labour Council Activist Dinner in October. Bonnie is the Chair of TBU Council, a member of the Joint Health and Safety Committee, former Branch president of Oakville Trafalgar and a member of the OSSTF Provincial Health and Safety Committee.

The annual dinner is held to honour Community Activists. The Keynote speaker was celebrated Mental Health Advocate, Margaret Trudeau.

Teachers Helping Teachers OSSTF Sponsors Release Time

The OSSTF Halton Secondary Teachers Unit is sponsoring release time for *collaborative planning* projects involving teams of 2-3 teachers. These projects may be departmental, interdepartmental, or involve teachers from different schools. Teachers may apply for up to 1 half day of release. As funds are limited, approval for projects will be based on a first come, first served basis and the number of applications submitted taking into consideration the schools and subject areas represented.

Please complete both pages of the application on the OSSTF website www.osstfd20.ca ASAP. Please note that we require a minimum of 1 week to request and obtain a HARRI code for each project.

Completed requests may be sent to Janet Scott, Educational Services Officer, via Board courier c/o Abbey Park H.S., or email completed applications to Janet.Scott@d20.osstf.ca.

Compassion Fatigue Workshop Sparked Interest and Discussion

The Compassion Fatigue Workshop presented by Cynthia Mitchell, an OSSTF teacher from Minden, was well received by 40 members at the Halton Secondary Teachers' Office in October.

Compassion Fatigue and its slow erosion of one's mental health is a very real problem in the field of education.

After experiencing Compassion Fatigue, Cindy took the training and realized that many people involved in education are unaware that they are experiencing this stressful and debilitating mental health problem.

Attendees learned more about Compassion Fatigue (CF), its early warning signs, self-care practices, healthy mental changes, and alternative options and choices.

The workshop provided an overview and understanding of CF and allows for a development of one's personal toolbox of self-care and CF mental health strategies.



Cynthia Mitchell, Compassion Fatigue Workshop presenter, shown here with Janet Scott, TBU Educational Services Officer, organizer of the event. Cynthia teaches high school in Minden, Ontario.

5th Annual OSSTF D20 Teachers Children's Christmas Party



Please join us:

What:

OSSTF Children's Christmas Party

Who:

Children 12 years old and under

When:

Friday, December 16th, 5-8pm

Where:

Lil' Monkeys,
3250 Harvester Rd
Burlington, ON L7N

Why:

Celebrate the Holidays and a Fundraiser for the Partnership West Foodbank

All participating families are asked to bring a donation of non-perishable food items which will be collected and donated to the Partnership West Food Bank.

The evening will include a visit from Santa for pictures and treats, holiday music, lots of play time and pizza. Space is limited (first 200 children), so register early! To register, please contact Brad Fisher at Brad.Fisher@d20.osstf.ca with the number of children and adults planning to attend.

BRING YOUR CAMERA!!!